

Love & Lies

1

MUSAWO

①

Love & Lies

L O V E a n d L I E S b y M U S A W O

C O N T E N T S

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...MY
EYES ARE
ALWAYS ON
HER.

WHEN
WE'RE IN
CLASS...

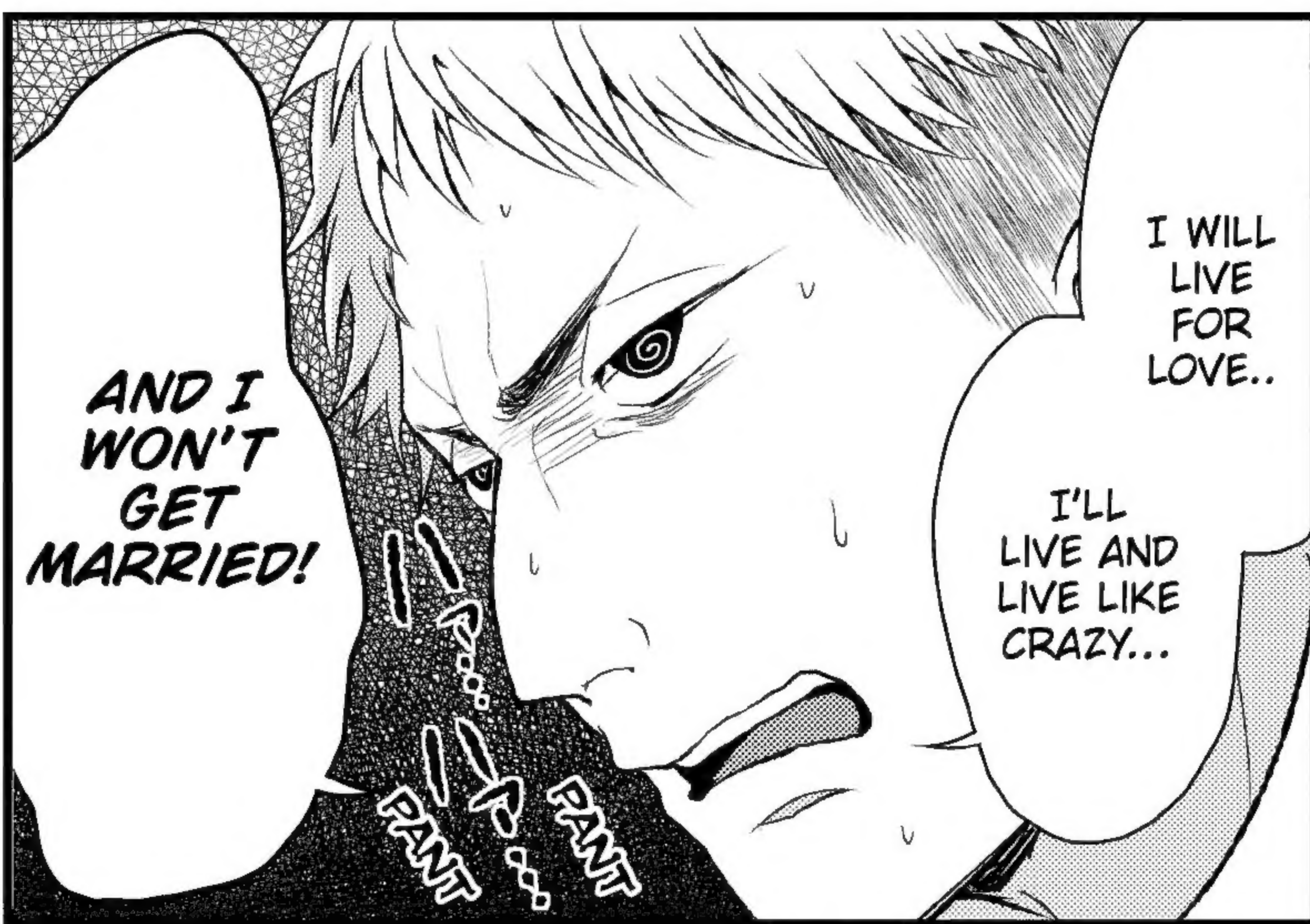
Chapter 1: First Love

AND
SOME-
TIMES I
WONDER
...

YUKARI NEJIMA (15)
HIGH SCHOOL
FIRST YEAR
NICKNAME: "NEJI"

I
DON'T
WANT
HER TO
NOTICE
MY
GAZE...

...SO
I
ONLY
STARE
A
LITTLE.





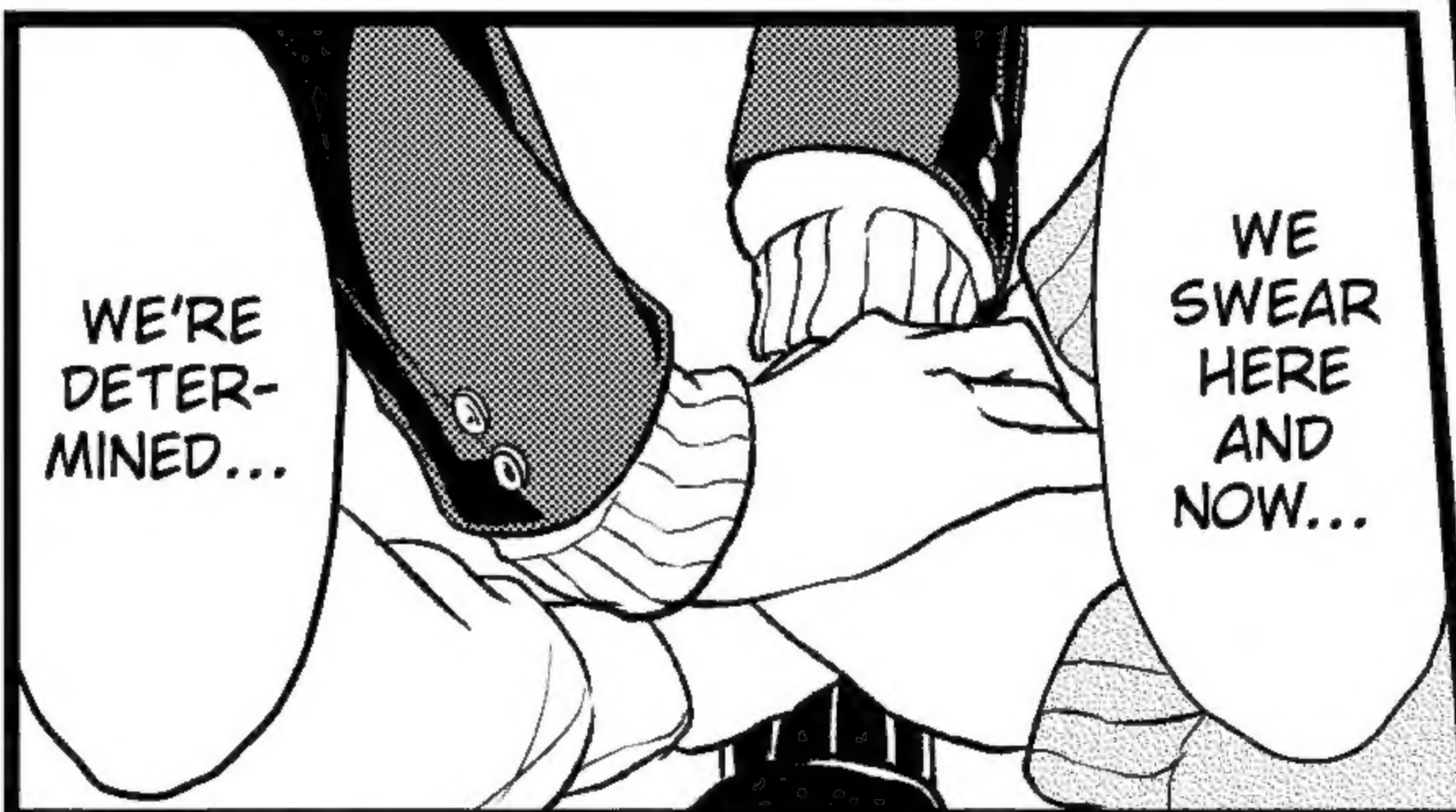


WE'LL
SWEAR
TOO!

**YOU
GUYS
....!**

I THINK
IT'S WEIRD
THAT
EVERYONE
TAKES A
SYSTEM LIKE
MARRIAGE FOR
GRANTED...
MARRIAGE IS
WHERE MEN
GO TO DIE!

YEAH...



WE'RE
DETER-
MINED...

WE
SWEAR
HERE
AND
NOW...

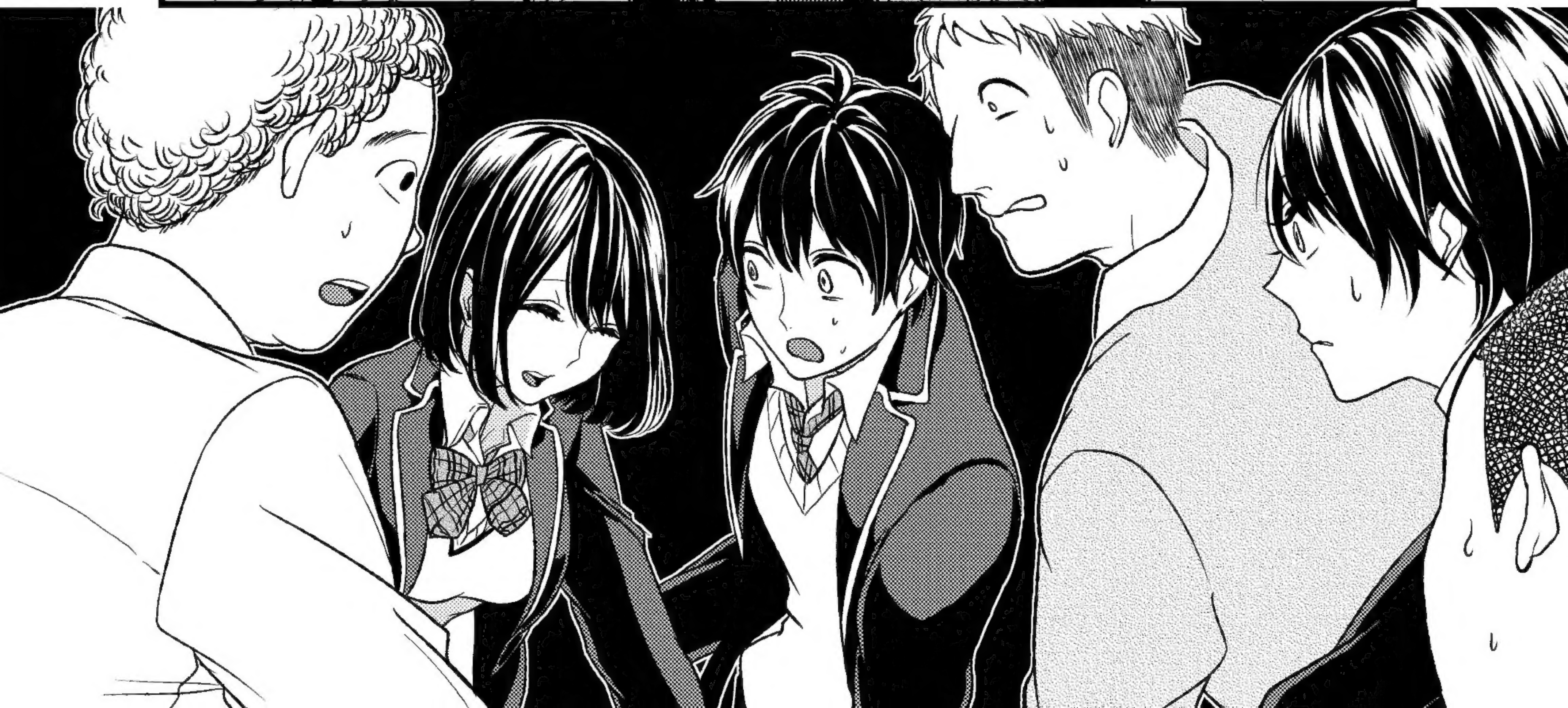
I
THINK
SO
TOO.



YEAH!!

WE
WILL...

**NOT
GET
MARRIED
!**





TAKA-SAKI-SAN?!

AH, SORRY. WAS IT NO GIRLS ALLOWED?

HUH?

HUH? WELL, NO, NOT AT ALL! NO, MA'AM!

HEE HEE!

THAT'S A RELIEF!

WHAT'S WITH THE MA'AM-ING?!



RUMOR HAS IT THAT SHE HASN'T GOTTEN HERS YET.

FOR REAL?!

SHE'S A GOD-DESS!

BUT. WELL...

...



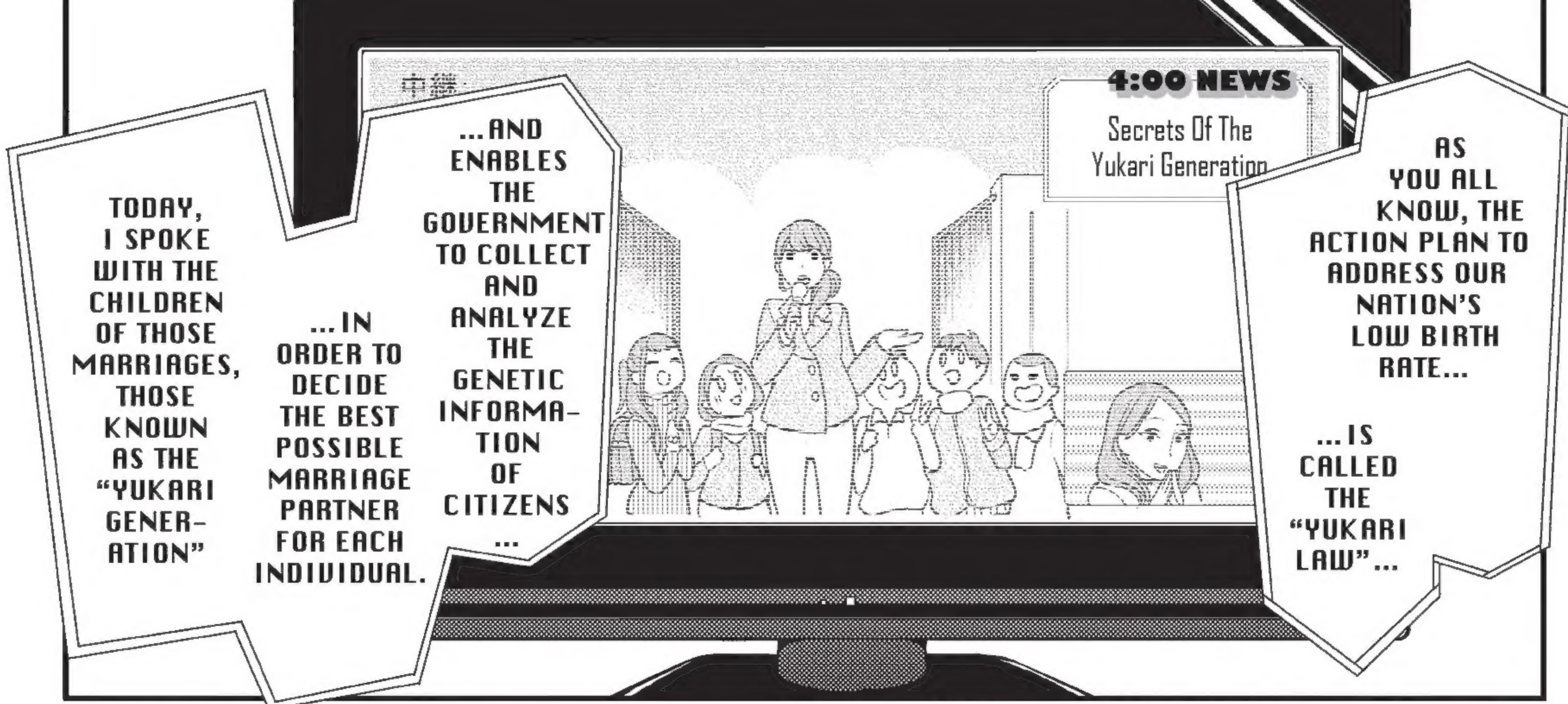
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HER SMILE UP CLOSE...

TAKA-SAKI-SAN...

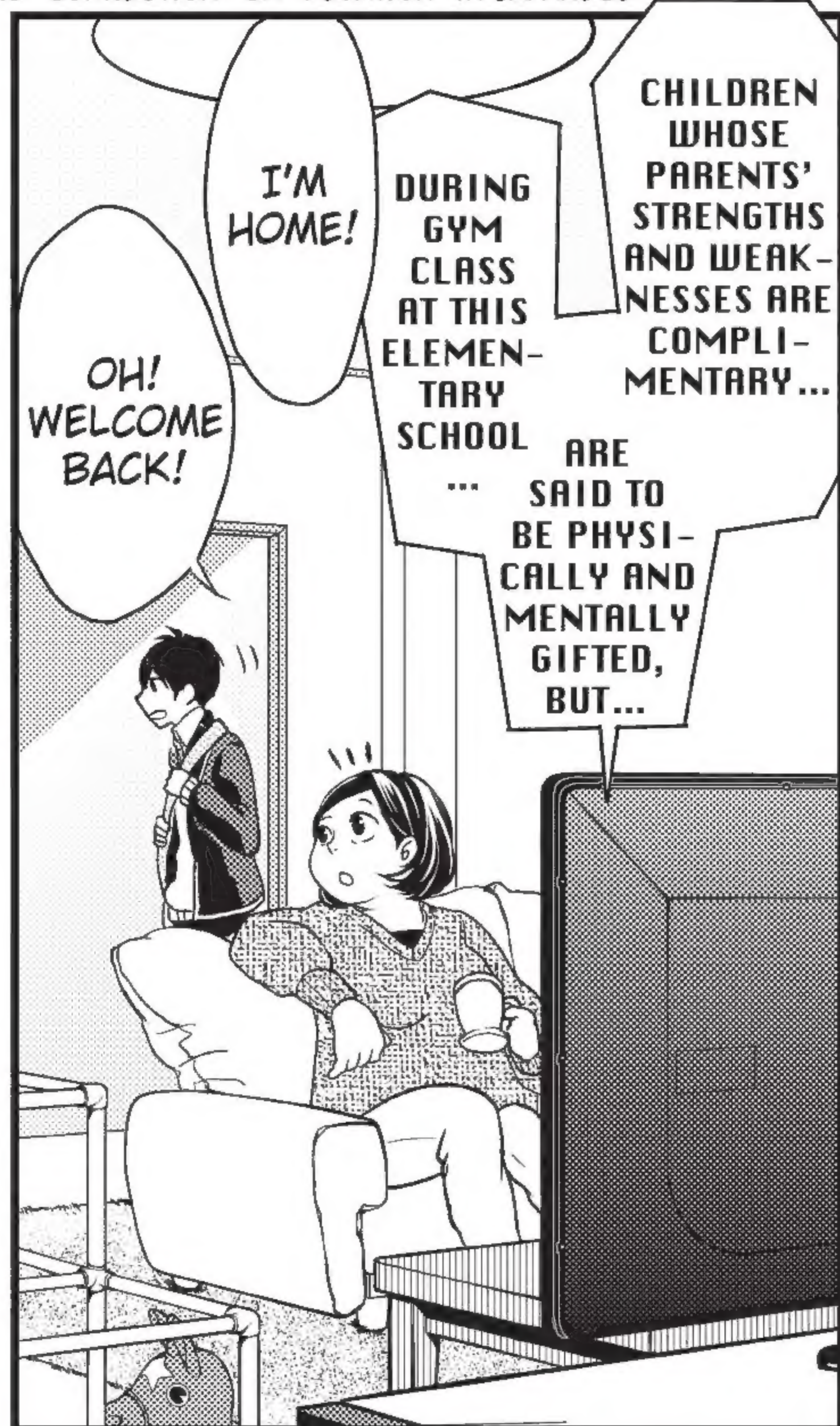
SHE'S SO NICE...

SHE'S A SAINT!





*YUKARI MEANS "CONNECTION" OR "RELATION" IN JAPANESE





I WANT TO BE
IN LOVE.

I WANT TO SAY
"I LIKE YOU!"

NOT TO
JUST
ANYONE...

...BUT TO
TAKASAKI-
SAN!



ME?

COUNT ME
THE HECK
OUT.



I WANT TO TELL HER, NO MATTER
WHAT ANYONE SAYS...

5-1

...THAT I'VE LIKED HER...

...FOR FIVE YEARS.

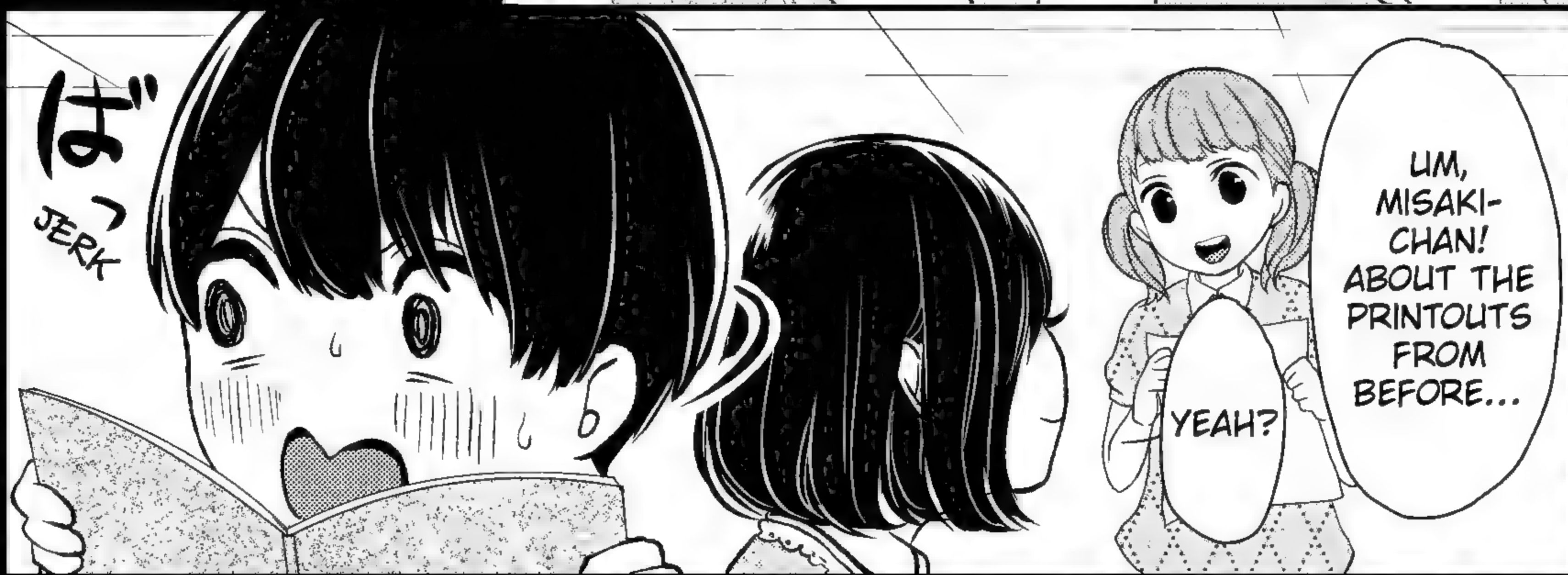
OKAY!
GET YOUR
NOTE-
BOOKS
OUT!



I DON'T
CARE IF
THEY SAY...

...IT'S
JUST "A
PASSING
FANCY"
BEFORE THE
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE
COMES...

YOU LIKE
WHO YOU
LIKE!

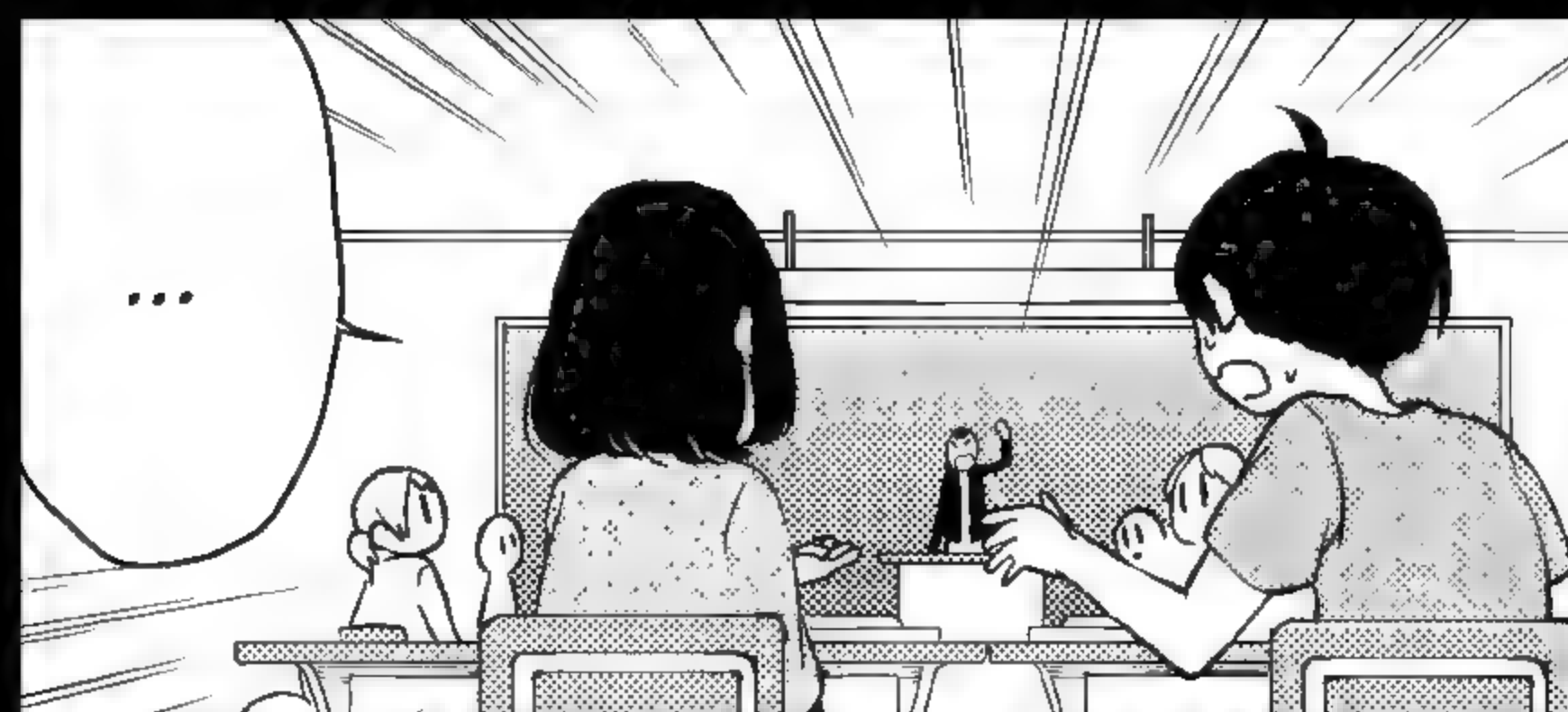
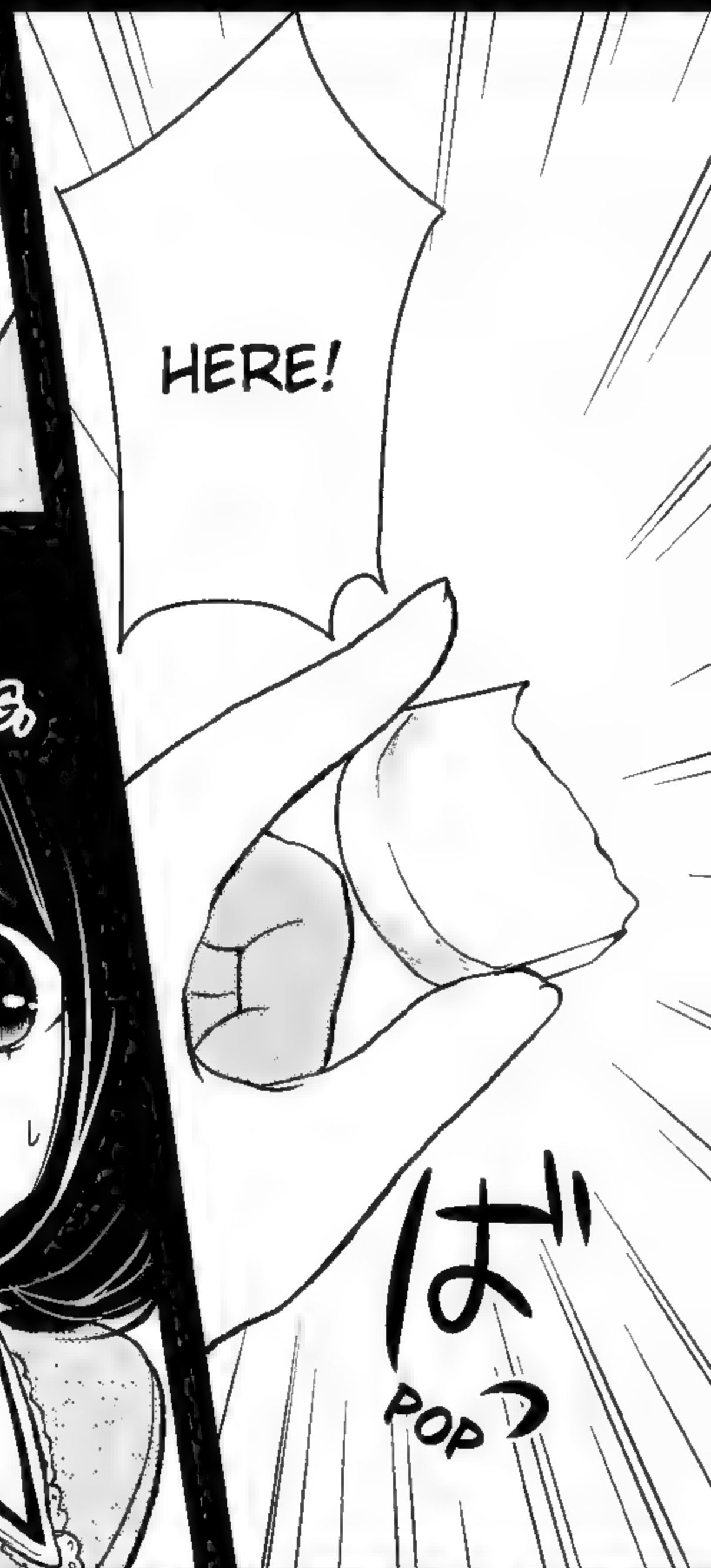




BUT UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS AT THE END OF THE DAY DURING FIFTH PERIOD.



I WAS SO SHY, AND AFTER ALL MY FRETTING, I FINALLY SAID IT...





THAT'S ALL
IT TOOK.



WITH JUST
THAT, SHE
GRABBED
AHOLD OF
EVERY PART
OF ME.



OH.
YEAH.
YUKARI!

IT'S
YOUR
BIRTHDAY
IN...

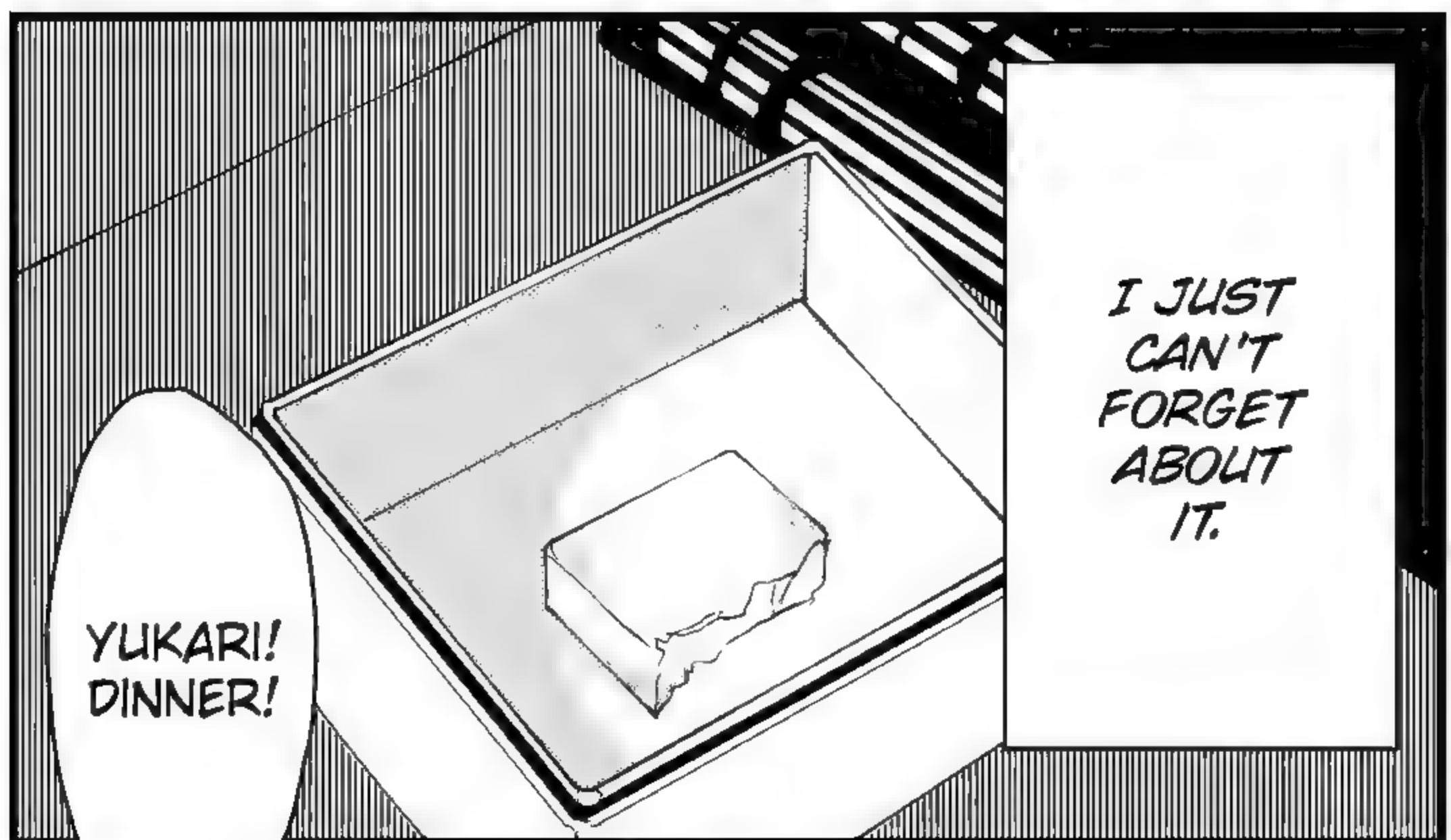
...TWO
DAYS.



BUT
I...

...BY
THE
WAY...

...THAT'S
THE ONLY
TIME I'VE
EVER
SPOKEN
WITH HER.



YUKARI!
DINNER!

I JUST
CAN'T
FORGET
ABOUT
IT.



OH...
SO I'LL
GET THE
NOTICE,
TOO, WHEN
I TURN 16.

IF YOUR
PARTNER IS
ALREADY 16,
IT'LL COME
RIGHT
AWAY,
RIGHT?

I'M SO EXCITED!

...



UH...

I
WONDER
IF YOU'LL
GET YOUR
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE!

OH,
YEAH.
IT IS!

OH!



I WOULDN'T BE
SHOCKED IF MY
NOTICE CAME
TOMORROW.

TAKASAKI-
SAN WAS
BORN IN
APRIL, I
THINK...



TA-
TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN!



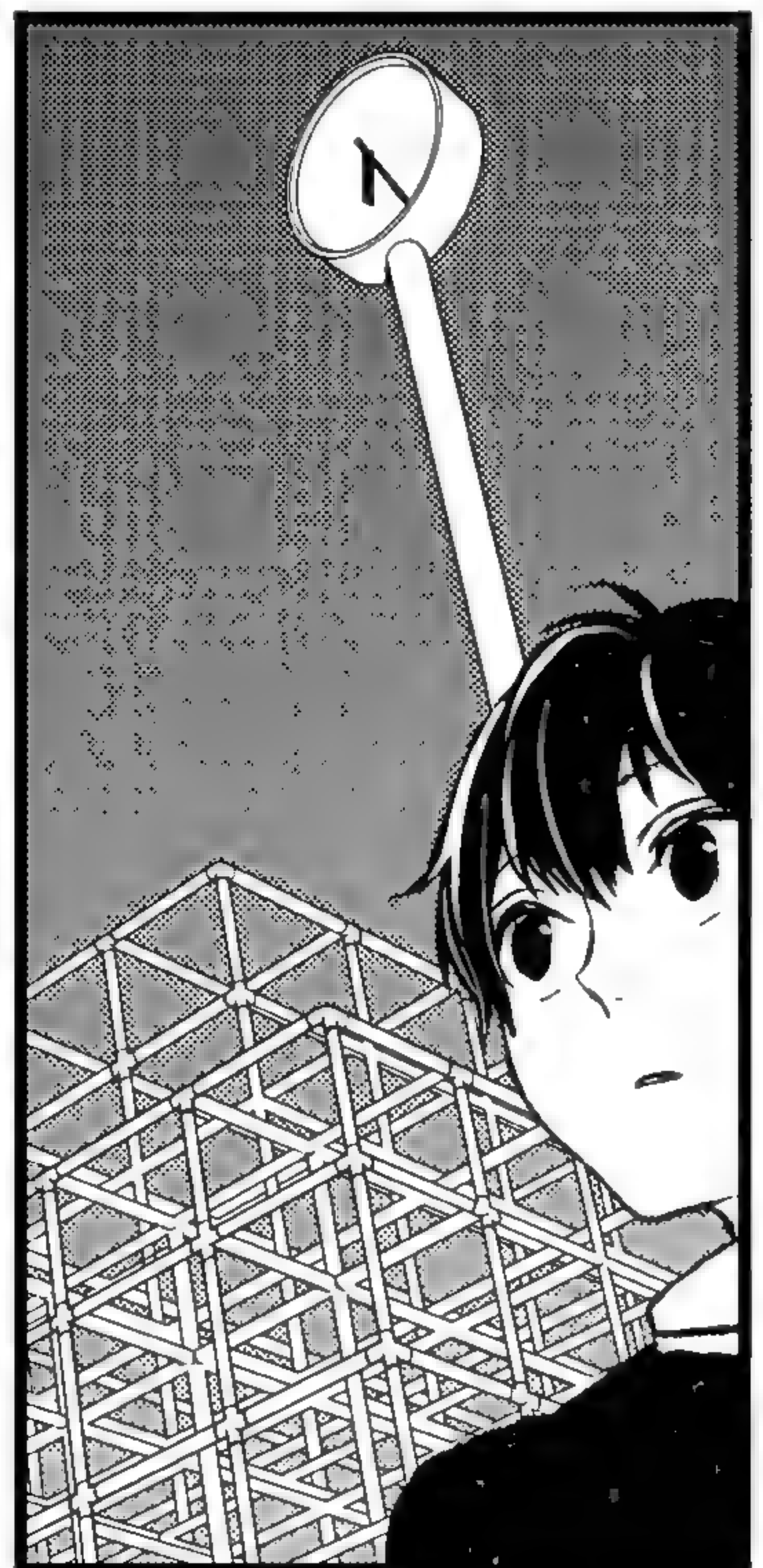
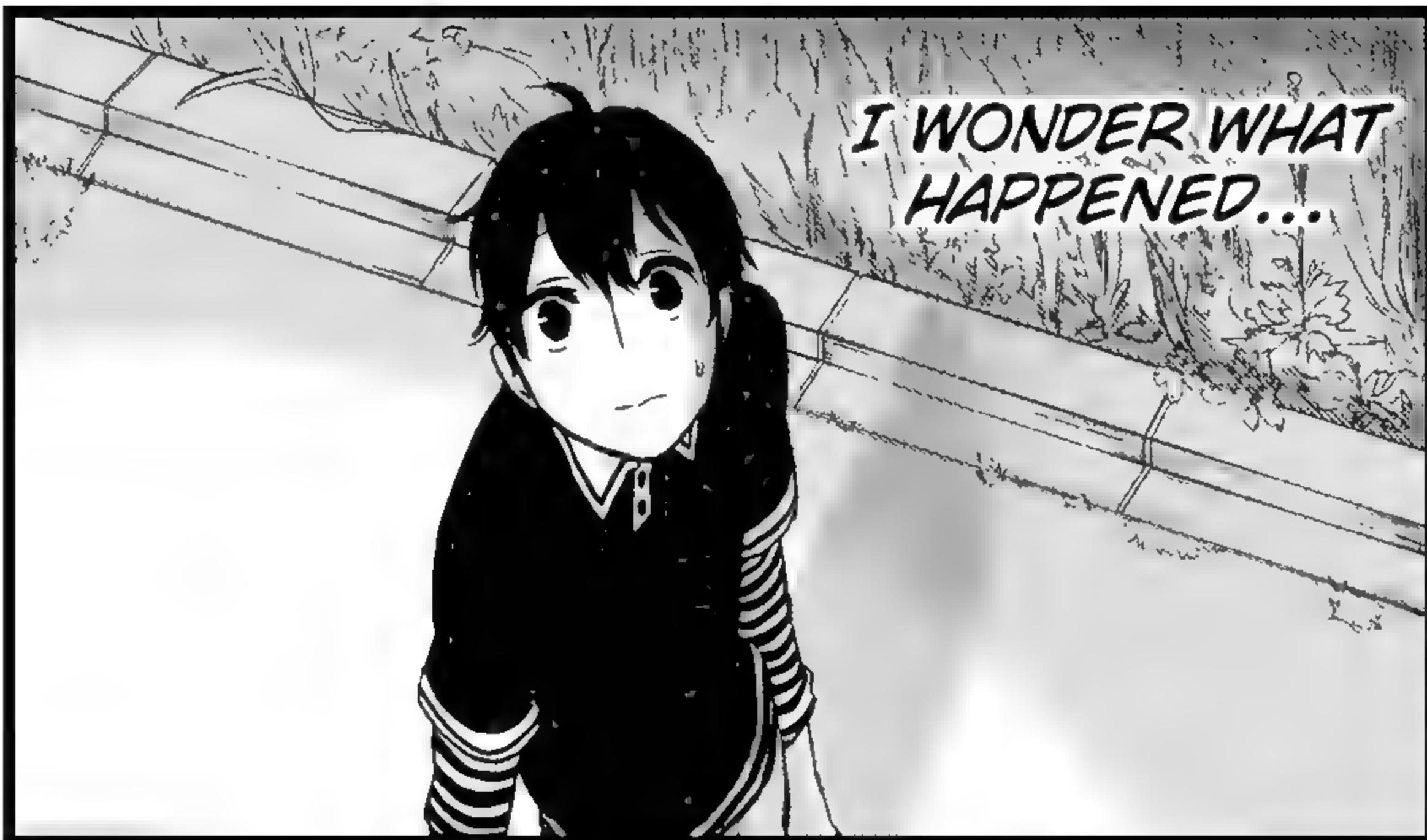
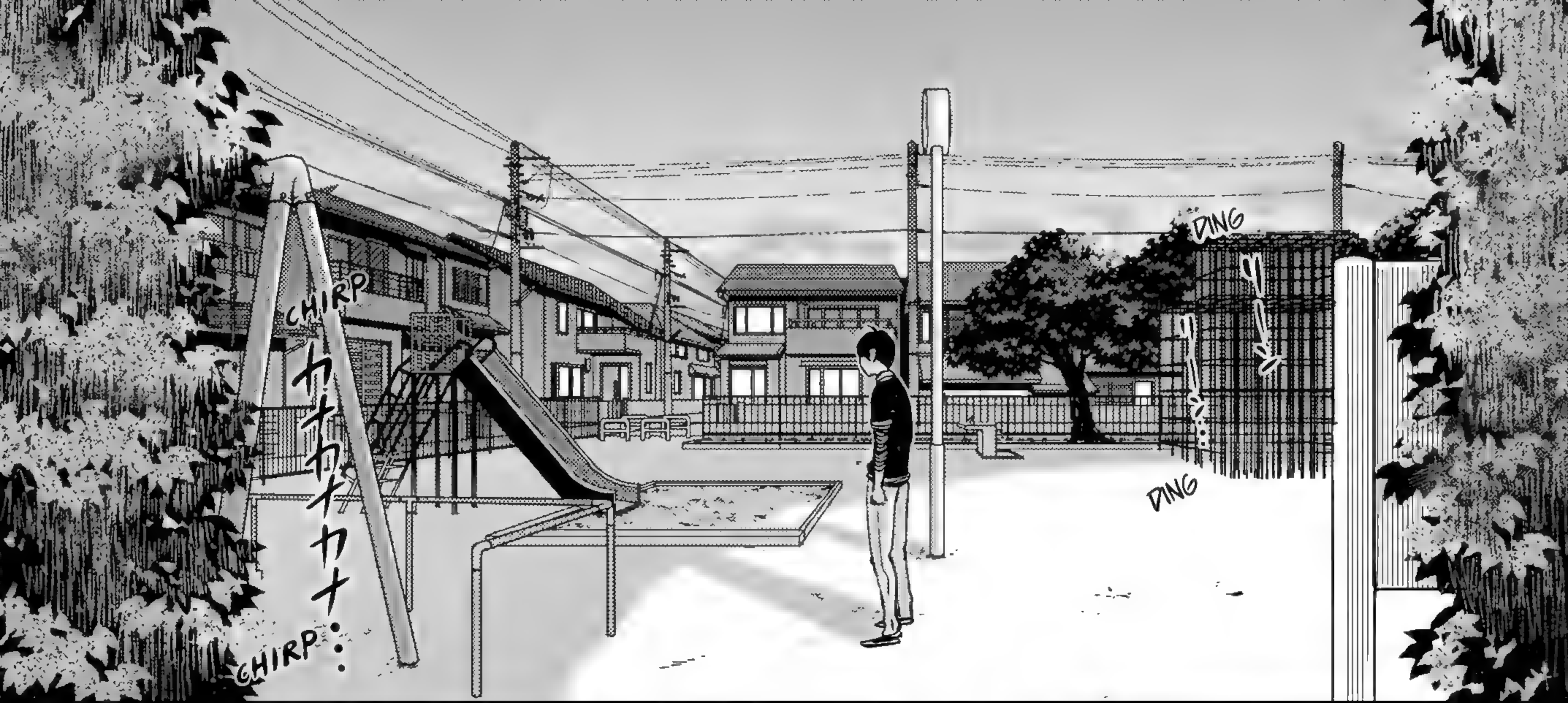
I DON'T HAVE
ANY MORE...

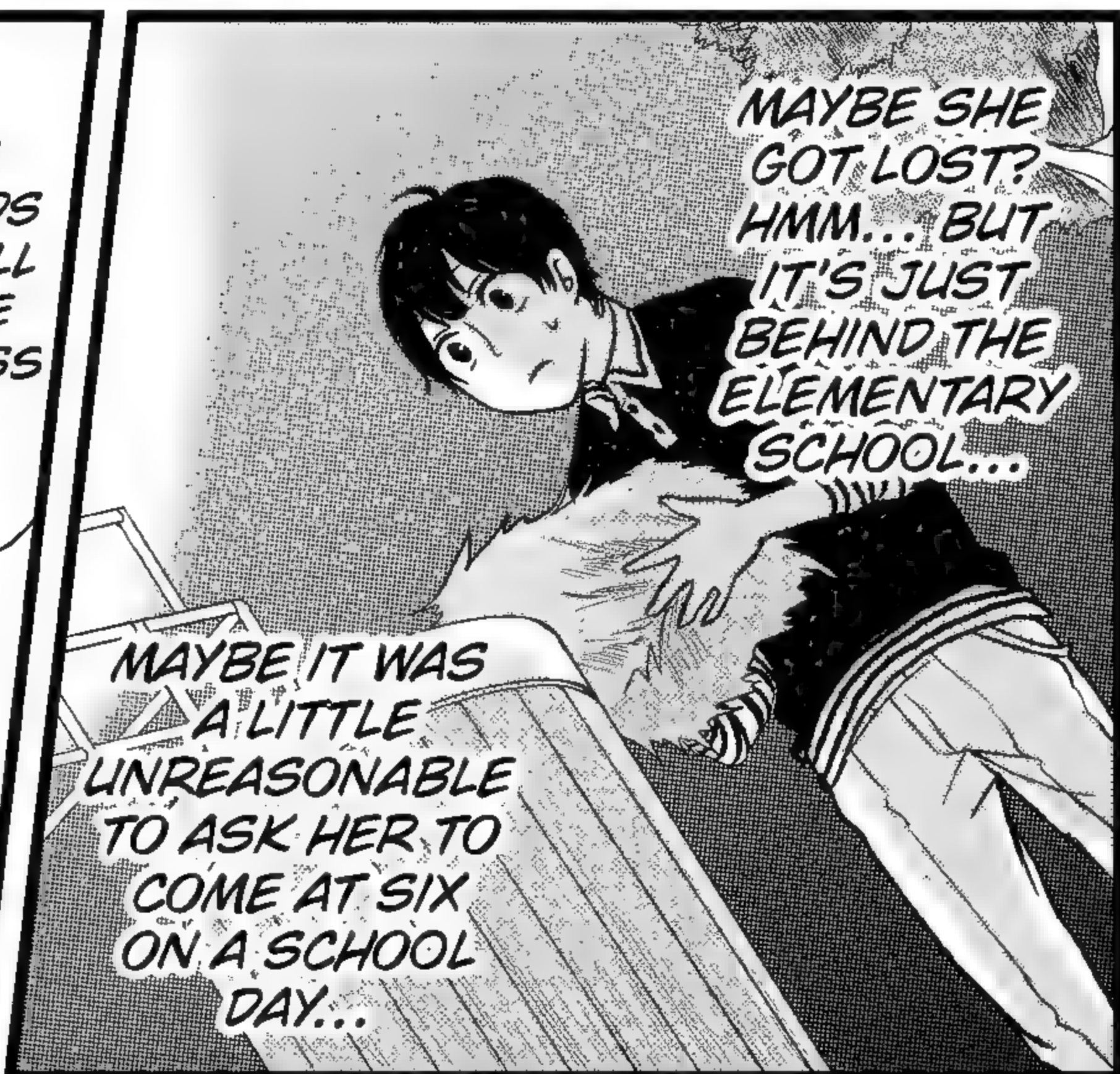
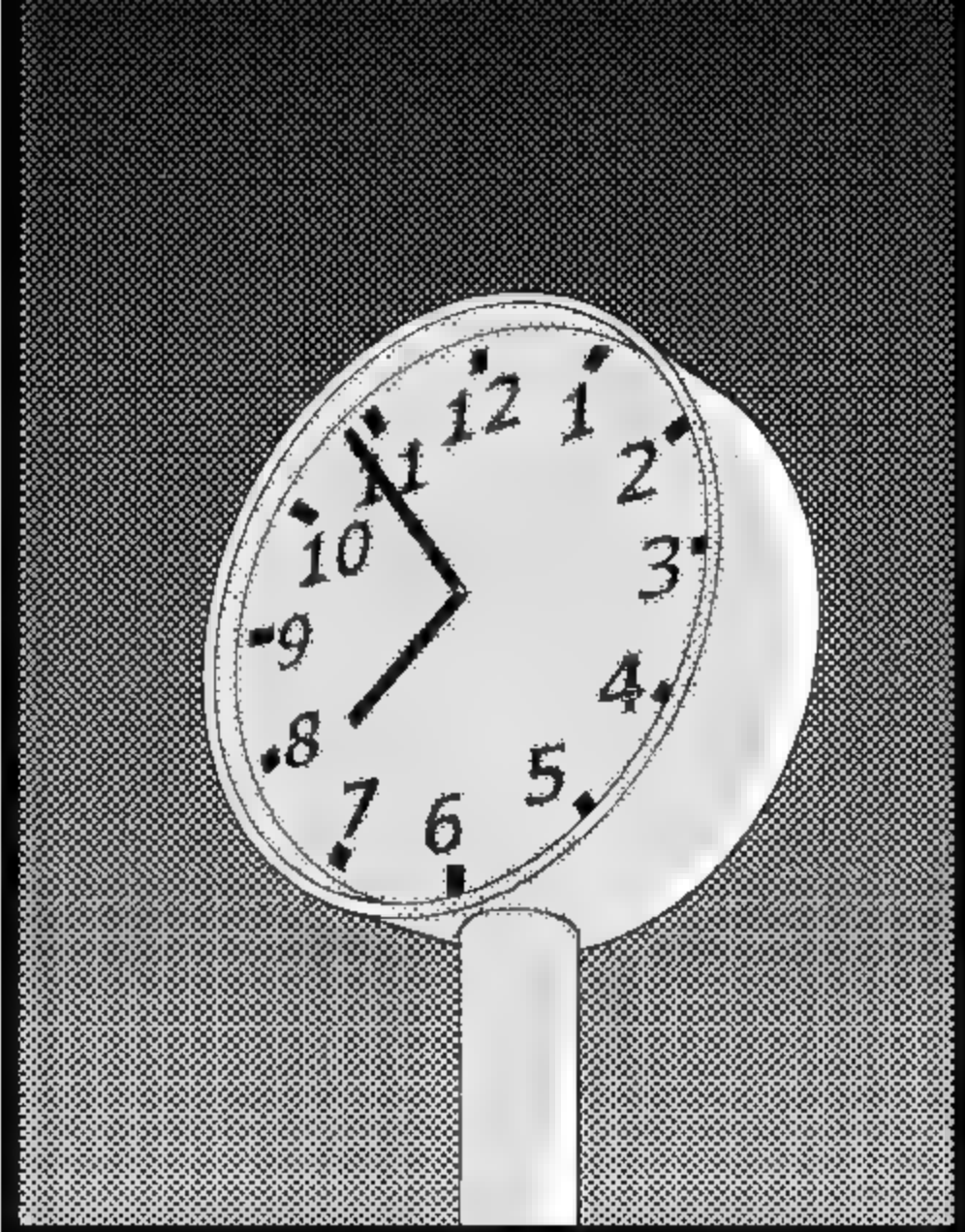
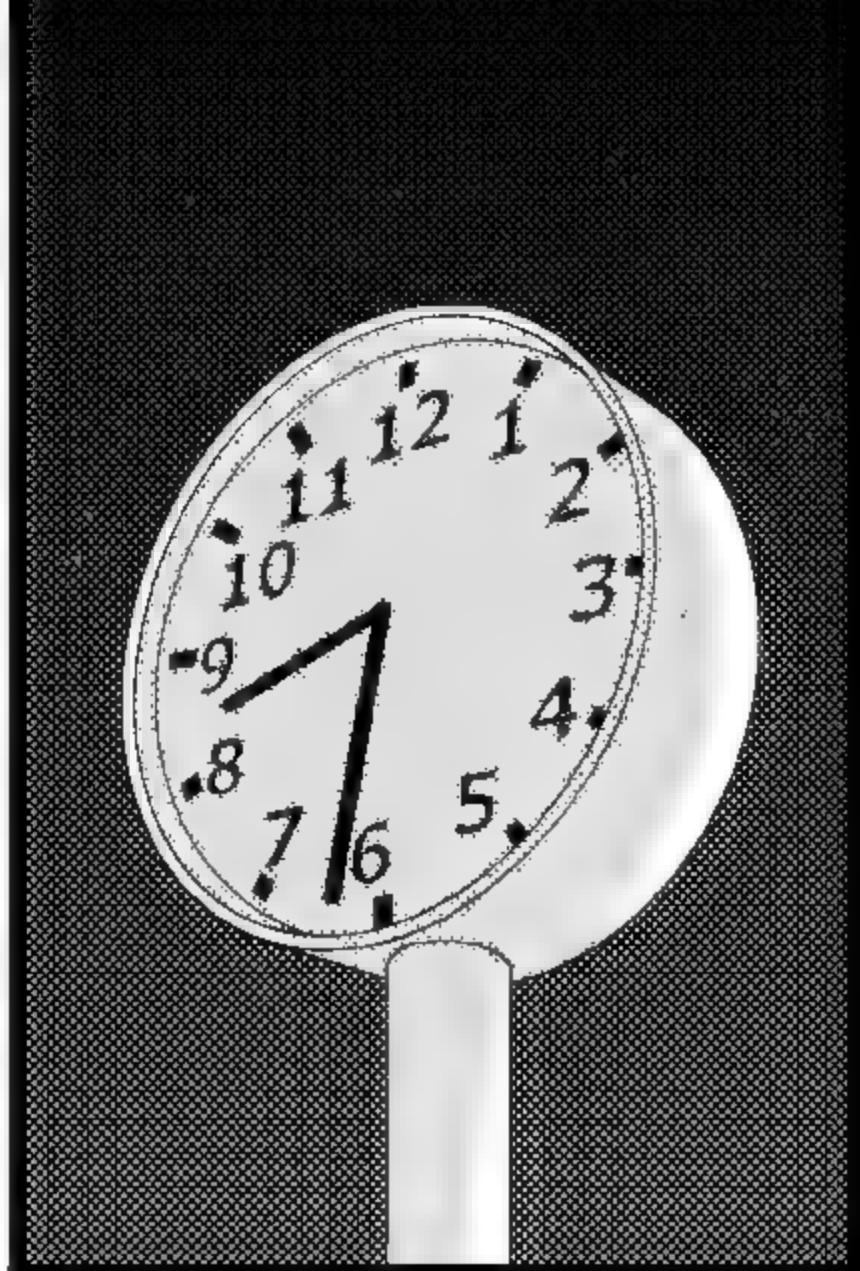
... TIME.

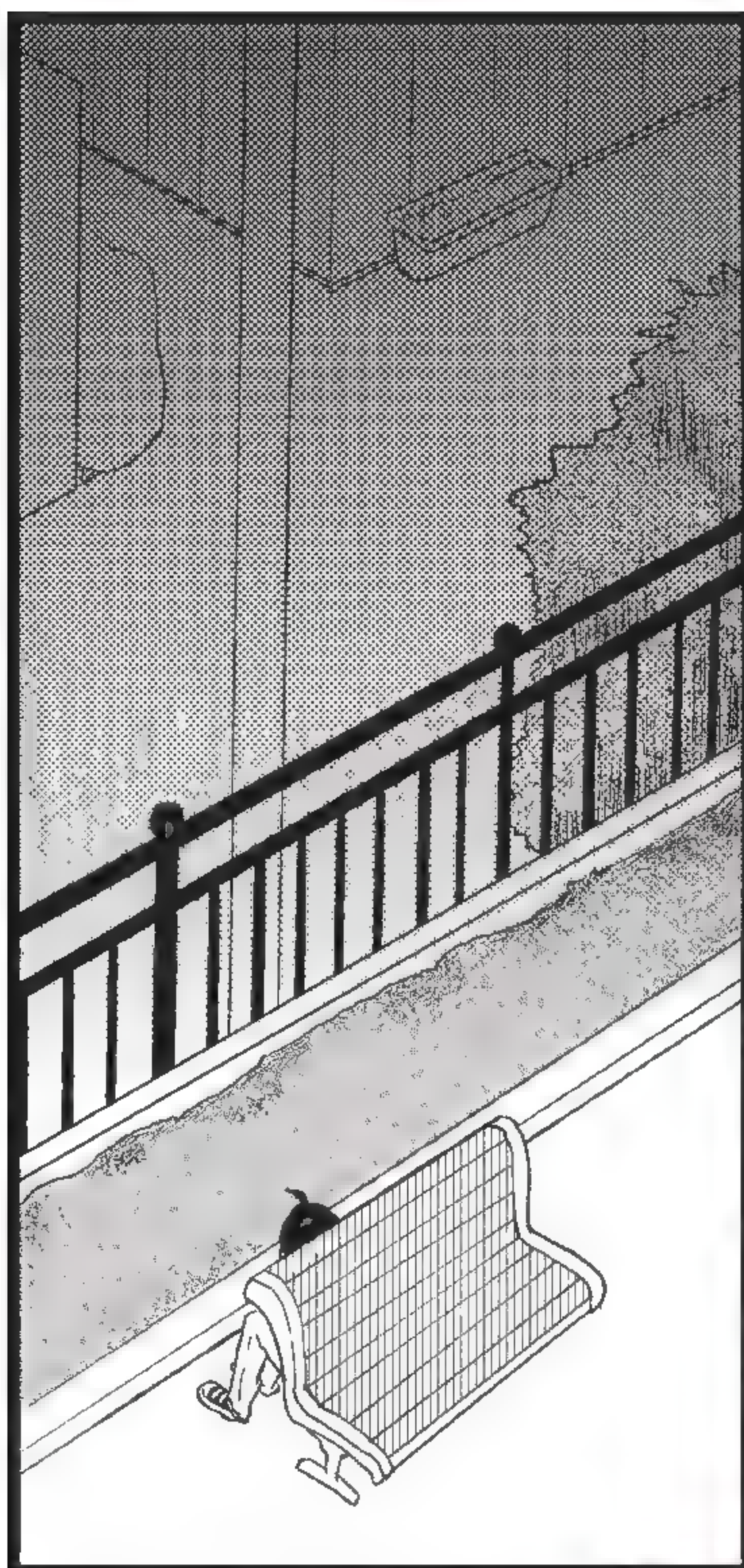
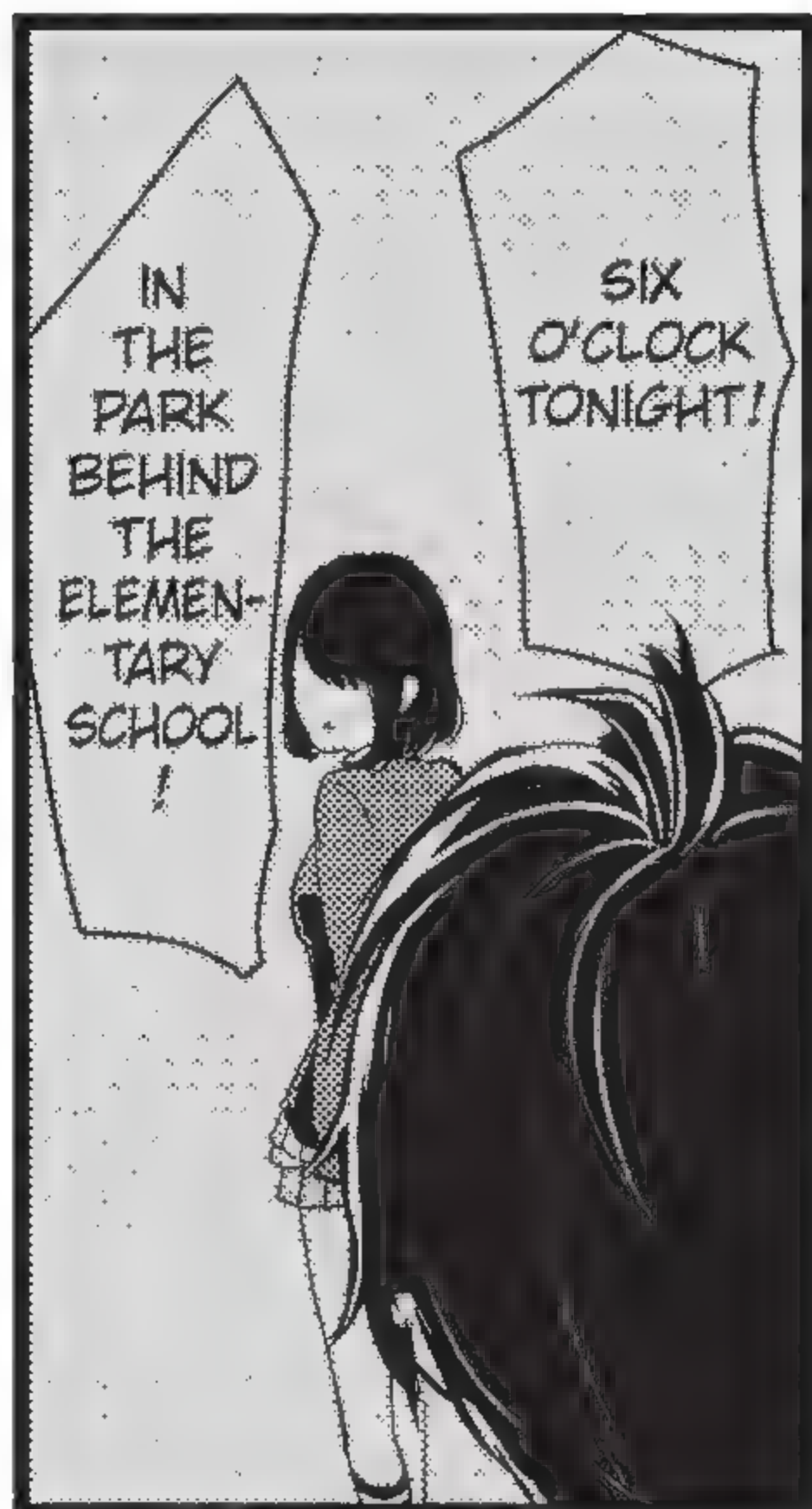


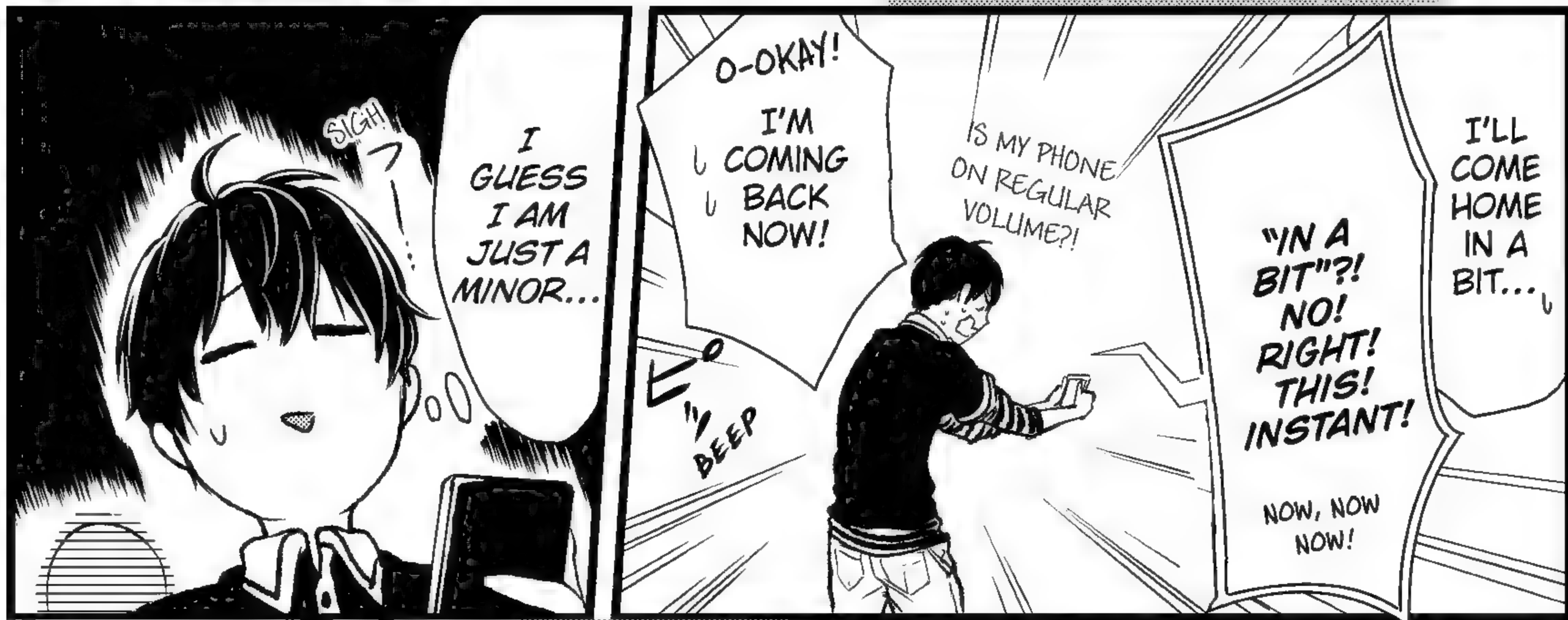
















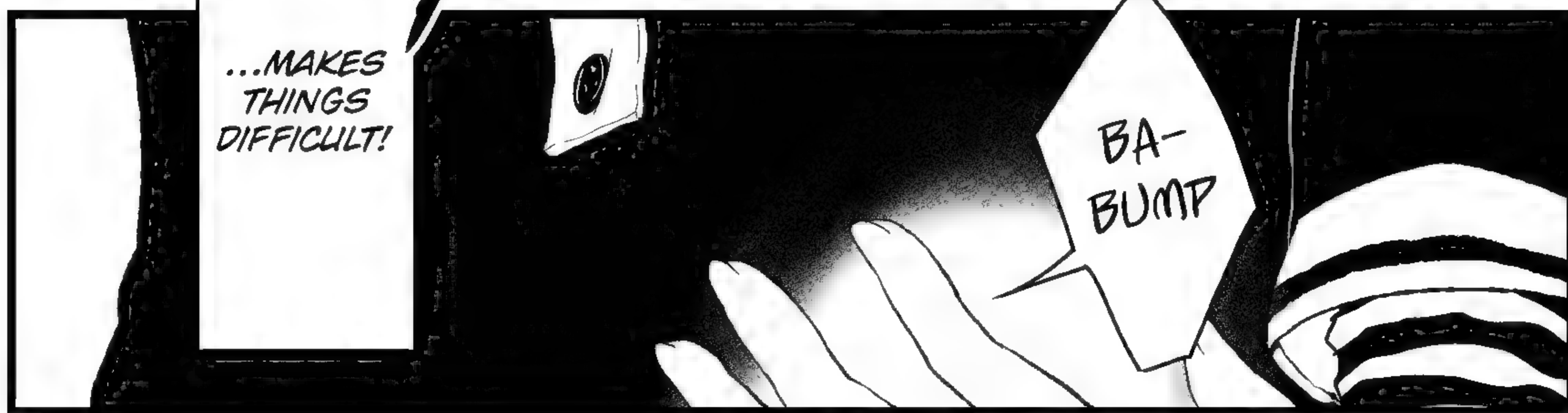


I CAN'T
TALK
OVER THIS
POUNDING
HEART-
BEAT!

LIKING
SOME-
ONE
REALLY
...



THE
WORDS
WON'T
COME
OUT
RIGHT!



...MAKES
THINGS
DIFFICULT!



...



...



AH...

EVEN
THOUGH
NOBODY
WAS
LISTENING.

YOU
WERE
REALLY
PASSIONATE
ABOUT
EXPLAINING
THE KOFUN.

YOUR
STUDY
PRESENTATION.

HUH?



WELL, I STILL
LIKE KOFUN...

WAIT.

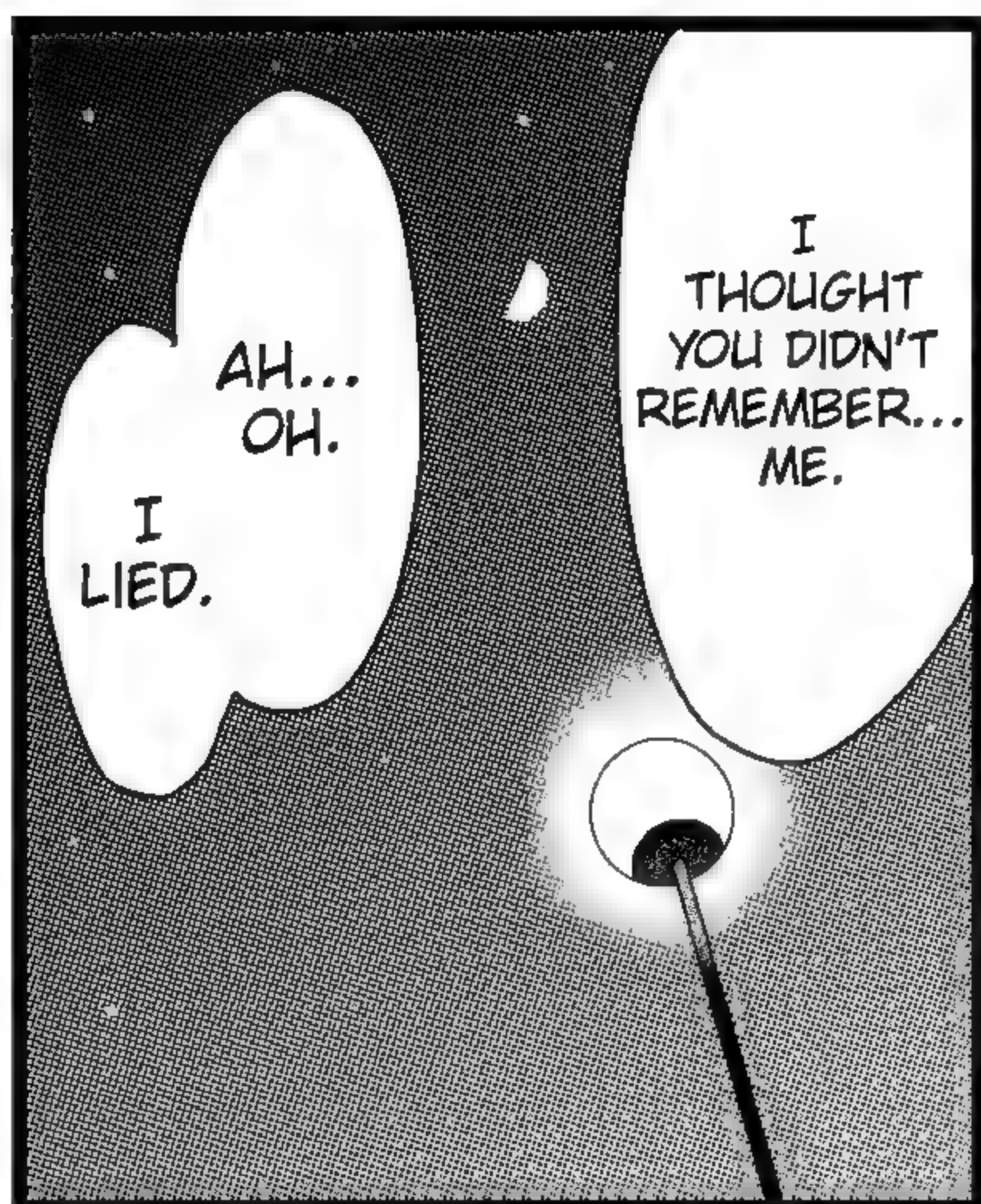


I'D
WANTED
TO DO
SOME-
THING A
LITTLE
DIFFER-
ENT!

MY DARK
HISTORY...
THIS IS
HUMILIATING!

AND SO
I DID THE
KOFUN...
I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHY I
CHOSE
THAT!

I-I
REMEMBER
THAT...



AH...
OH.

I
LIED.

I
THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T
REMEMBER...
ME.



?



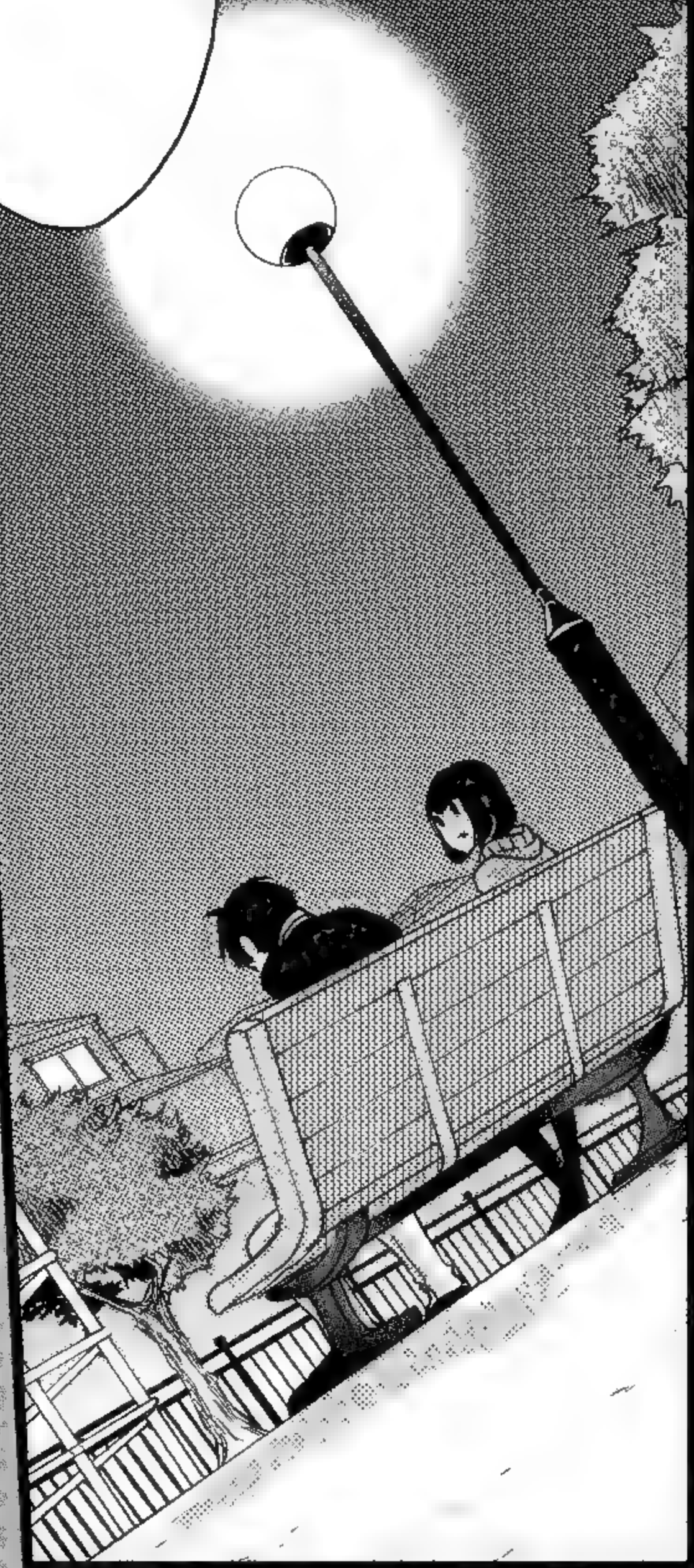




BECAUSE
OF
YOU...

I'M
HERE
RIGHT
NOW...

ANY-
WAY!







IT'S
OBVIOUSLY
NOT
NOTHING!

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
BY
THAT?!

FLUSTERED



SORRY...
IT'S
NOTHING...

TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN?!



O-OH,
YEAH!
TAKEDA
FROM OUR
CLASS...

LISTEN
TO
THIS!

I
HATE
THIS!

I DON'T
CARE IF
SHE
TURNS
ME
DOWN!

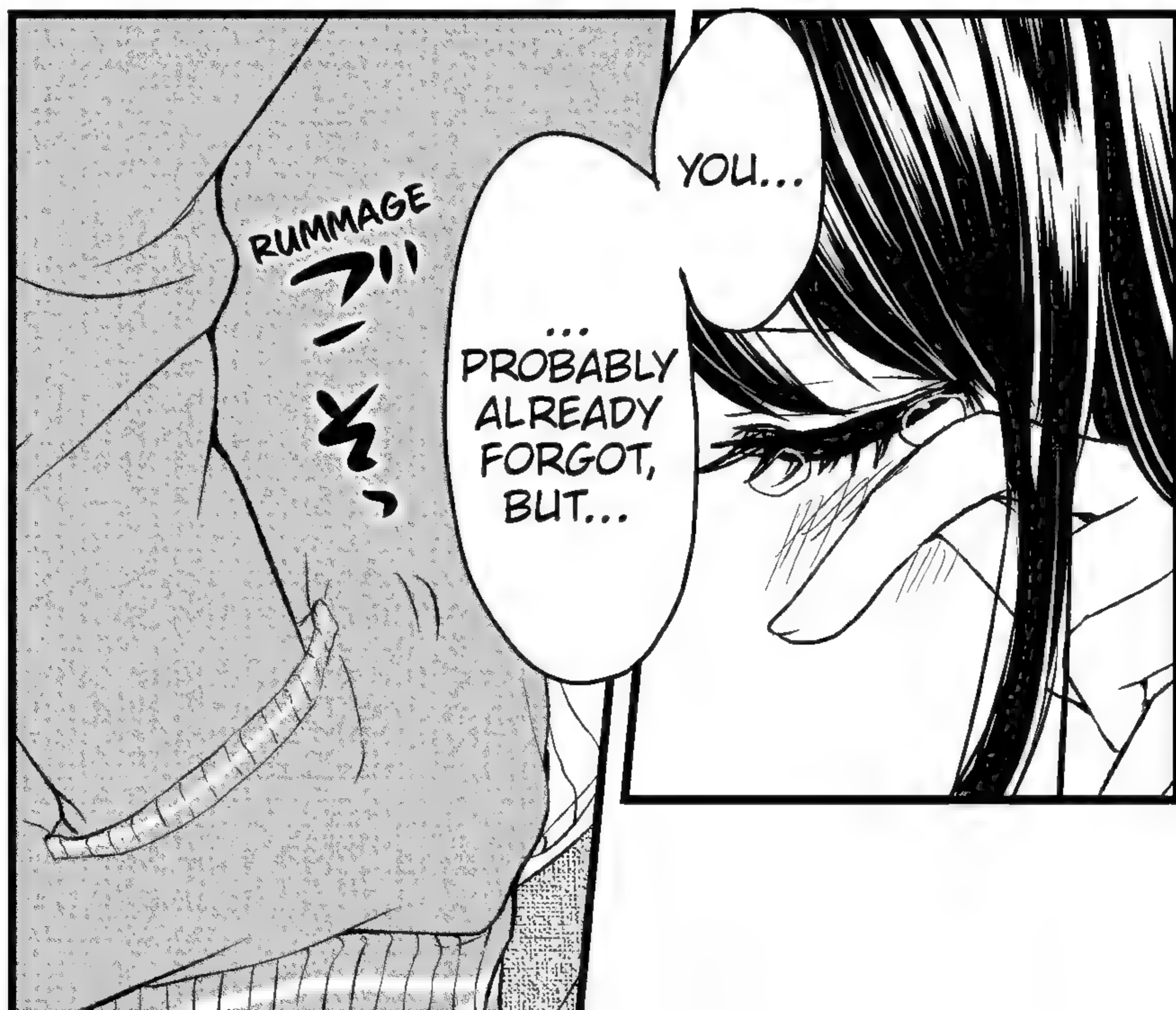
I'M SORRY!
I JUST
BLURTED
IT OUT, I
WASN'T
THINKING
OF YOUR
FEELINGS...

I JUST
DON'T
WANT
HER TO
CRY!

I KNOW
THIS IS
KIND OF
SUDDEN!

A LITTLE
WHILE AGO,
HE
CHALLENGED
ME TO MAKE
SNOT BUBBLES
WITH OUR
NOSES...

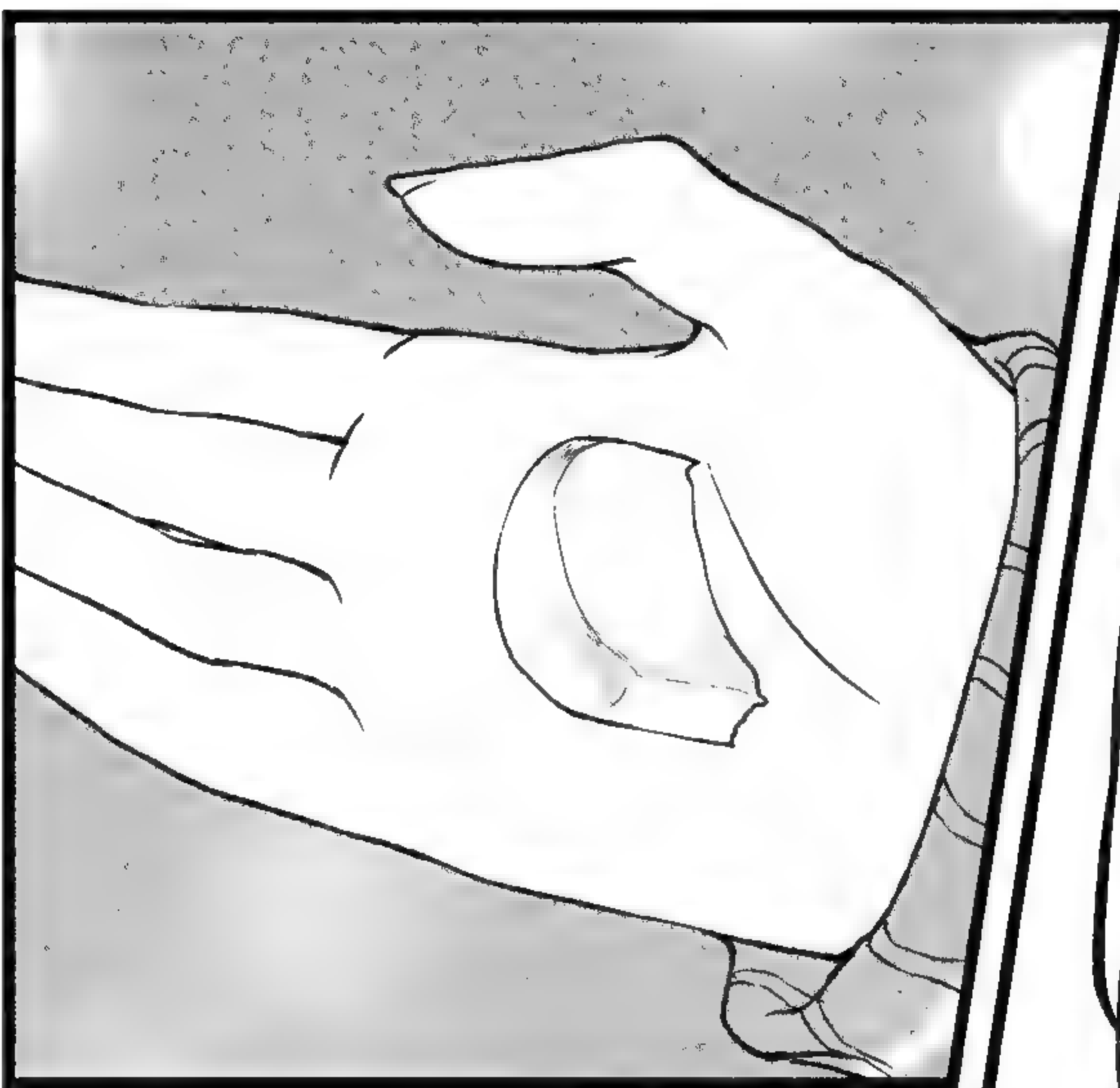
NEJIMA-
KUN.



RUMMAGE

...
PROBABLY
ALREADY
FORGOT,
BUT...

YOU...



I'VE
ALWAYS,
ALWAYS
LIKED
YOU.





I'M NOT LYING THIS TIME.
REALLY, TRULY.

...HUH?
A-ARE YOU LYING AGAIN...?



ON MY LIFE!

...



S...

SWEAR TO GOD?



I'M
NOT
LYING.



HEH
HEH.

THAT
DAY...

...THOUGHT
THAT YOU
WOULD STILL
CARRY THAT
ERASER
WITH YOU.



BUT I
NEVER
WOULD
HAVE...



I COULD
JUST
TELL!

FLUSTERED

STARE

H—
HOW...
DID
YOU
KNOW...

YOU'D
NOTICED
BACK IN
FIRST
PERIOD
THAT I'D
FORGOTTEN
MY ERASER,
DIDN'T
YOU?



BUT
IT
MADE
ME
SO
HAPPY.



I-I WAS
TOO LATE,
HUH?
GIVING IT
TO YOU
IN FIFTH
PERIOD...

I'D
RATHER SHE
NOT HAVE
REMEMBERED
HOW LAME
I WAS!



I GOT
REALLY
EXCITED.

YOU
KEPT
PRETEND-
ING YOU
WEREN'T
WATCH-
ING...

BUT
WHEN I
THOUGHT
ABOUT YOU
WORRYING
ALL DAY
FOR ME...



MAYBE
THAT
MAKES
ME A
LITTLE
SIMPLE.





AH,
WELL,
I'M NOT
ANY
GOOD AT
TALKING
TO
GIRLS...

SO I
DON'T
REALLY,
UM...



HUH?

N-NICE,
HUH...
THAT'S THE
FIRST TIME
ANYONE'S
EVER SAID
THAT.



...

...



YOU GOT
UP YOUR
COURAGE...

...AND
REALLY
TRIED...

...TO BE
NICE
TO ME,
Y'KNOW?

PEOPLE
WHO ARE
NICE TO
EVERYONE
ARE FINE,
BUT...



AT
LEAST,
IT WAS
TO ME.

IS
THAT
BAD?



IT WAS
REALLY
SPECIAL...

AND
REALLY
WONDERFUL.



IT FEELS
SO
STRANGE...

...TALKING
TO YOU
LIKE
THIS!
I'M SO
SHY!

YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN
SOMEONE
I WATCHED
FROM A
DISTANCE.



WHAT DO
I DO
NOW...?

O-OF
COURSE
NOT.



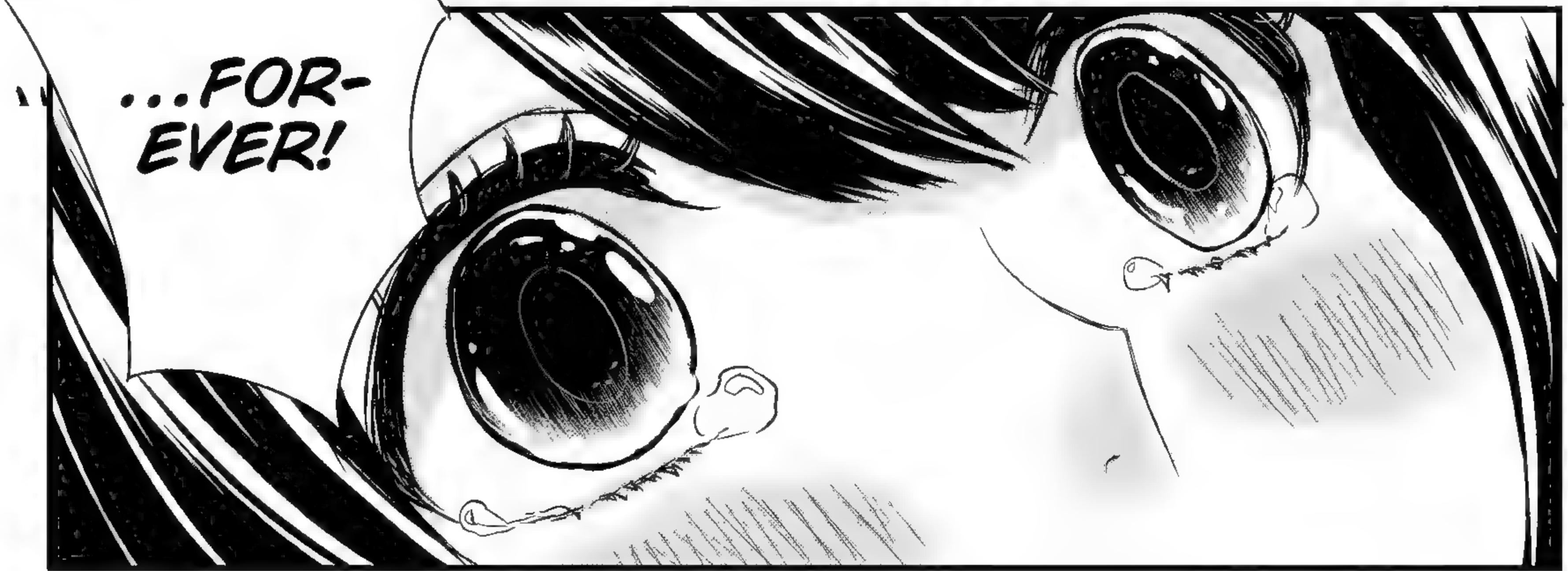
I FEEL
LIKE I'M
GONNA
CRY...

HEE
HEE!





I WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU...



...FOR-
EVER!



I'M SO GLAD I FELL
FOR THIS GIRL...

I FELT LIKE EVERY
CELL IN MY BODY WAS
SCREAMING THAT.



REALLY
LIKE A
DREAM
TO ME!



TODAY
IS
LIKE...



NO,
I'M
NOT!

YOU'RE
BEING SO
NEJIMA-
KUN!



LET'S
KISS.



HEY...

PAT
とん、



KISS
...?

LET'S...

HUH?



OH, MAN.

THIS IS LIKE
A DREAM.



...



THERE'S
NO WAY
THINGS
...KEEP CAN...
GOING
SO
PERFECTLY
LIKE
THIS...

THE CUTEST
GIRL IN THE
WORLD
LOVES ME,
AND SHE
WANTS TO
KISS ME...



WHEN
I SAY
I LIKE
YOU...



...



THAT'S
WHAT I
MEAN BY
"LIKE."

IT MEANS...
I WANT...TO
KISS YOU...
AND STUFF.



I...
...DO!

I—



MAYBE
YOU DON'T
FEEL THE
SAME
WAY...



PHEN



I DON'T
CARE IF
THIS IS A
DREAM OR
WHAT!

TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN...



TAKASAKI-
SAN...









TAKASAKI-SAN...

I...

DIIING

DING



WHAT...
MAYBE MY PARENTS?

...?

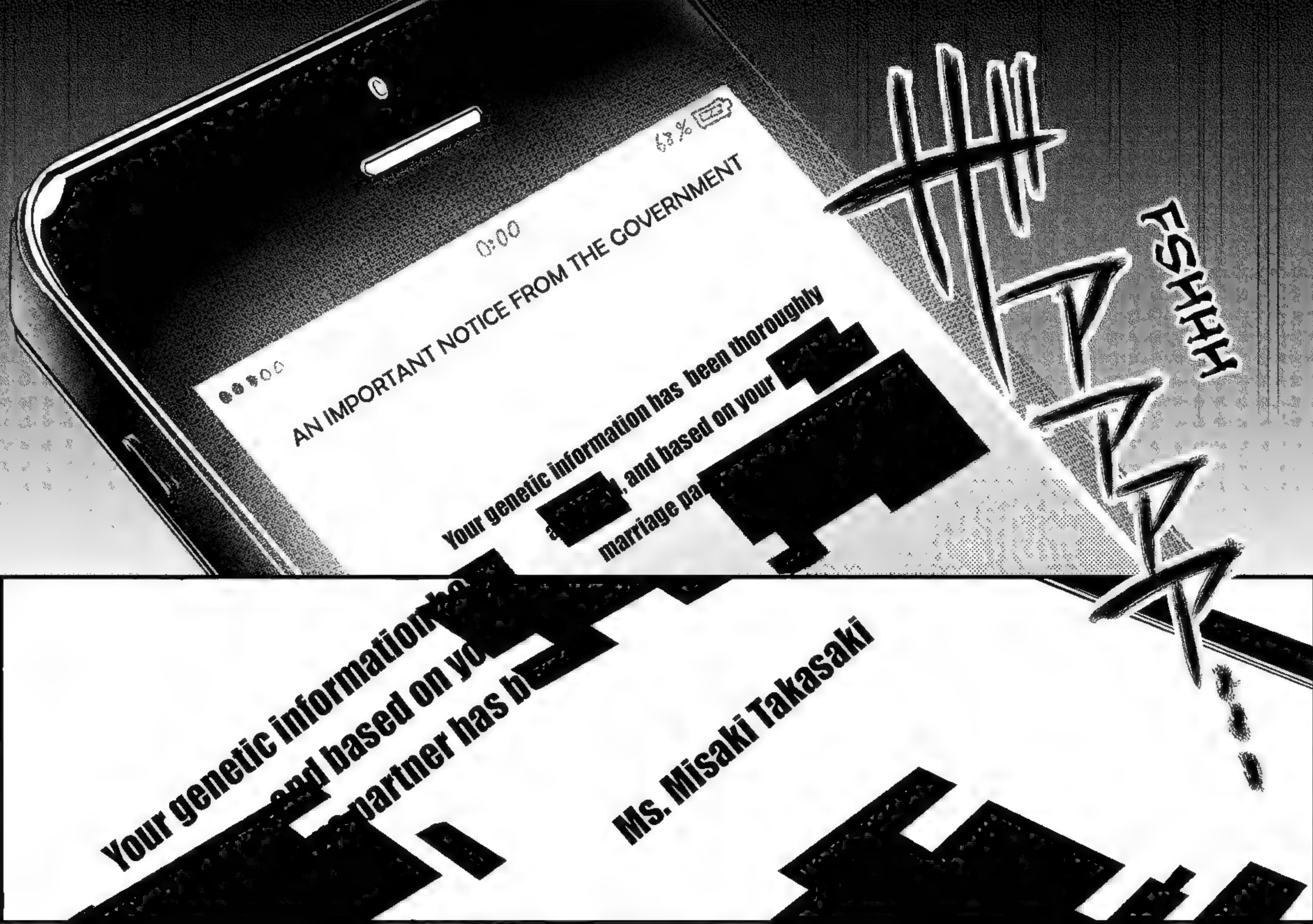


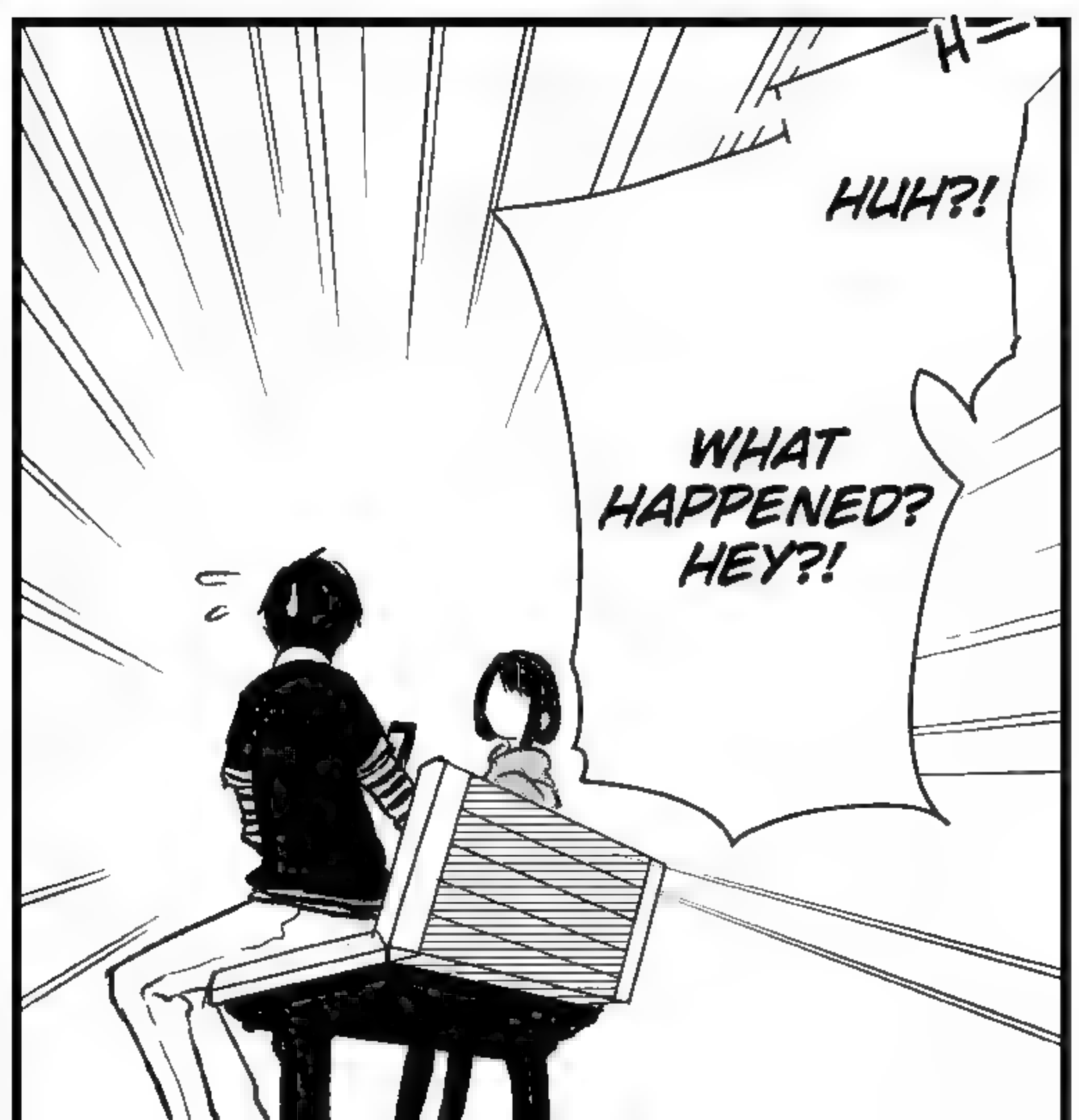
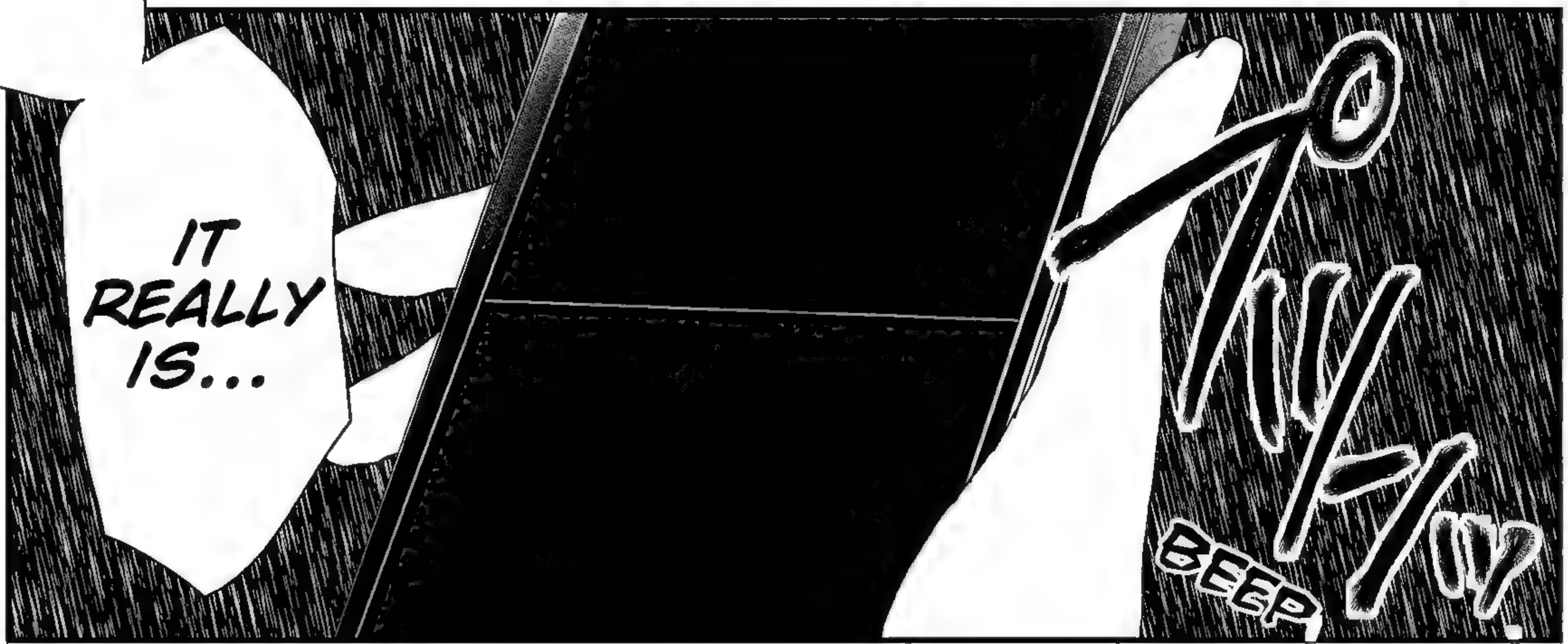
**THE
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE
?!**



THE...









2015 5

has been thoroughly and marriage partner has been

IT'S NOT TAKASAKI-SAN...

Ms. Lilina Sanada

GOVERNMENT NOTICE
ISSUED 8 MAY 2015

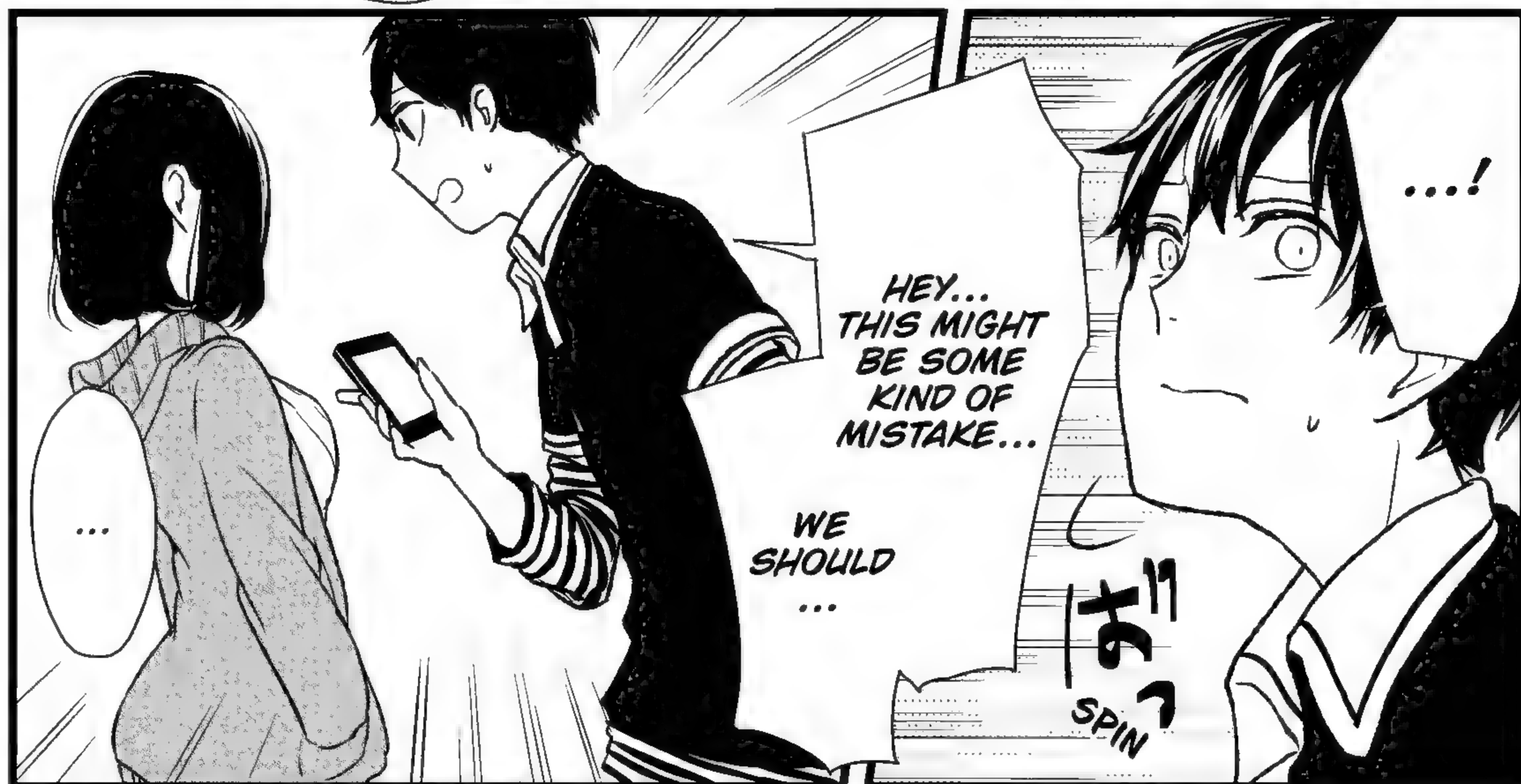
NOTIFICATION OF ASSIGNED PARTIES		DELIVERY DATE	
PARENTAL NOTIFICATION	NOTES	YEAR	DAY
PROSPECTIVE HUSBAND	PROSPECTIVE WIFE		
NEJIMA 氏 根島	SANADA 氏 真田		
8 MAY 1999	3 MARCH 1999		
RESIDENT OF KAYANO CITY KANAGAWA PREFECTURE			
FATHER MOTHER RESPONDENTS ATTENDS RIJOU GIRLS			





WE WISH
YOU ALL
THE BEST
IN YOUR
FUTURE
RELATION-
SHIP.

SEE
YOU,
THEN.



HEY...
THIS MIGHT
BE SOME
KIND OF
MISTAKE...

WE
SHOULD
...

....!

おっ
SPIN



NEJIMA-
KUN...

...HAPPY
BIRTHDAY.



I WAS GOING TO...

...KEEP MY FEELINGS TO MYSELF MY WHOLE LIFE.



I...

REALLY...

...DIDN'T PLAN TO COME TODAY.

HUH? WAIT A SECOND...



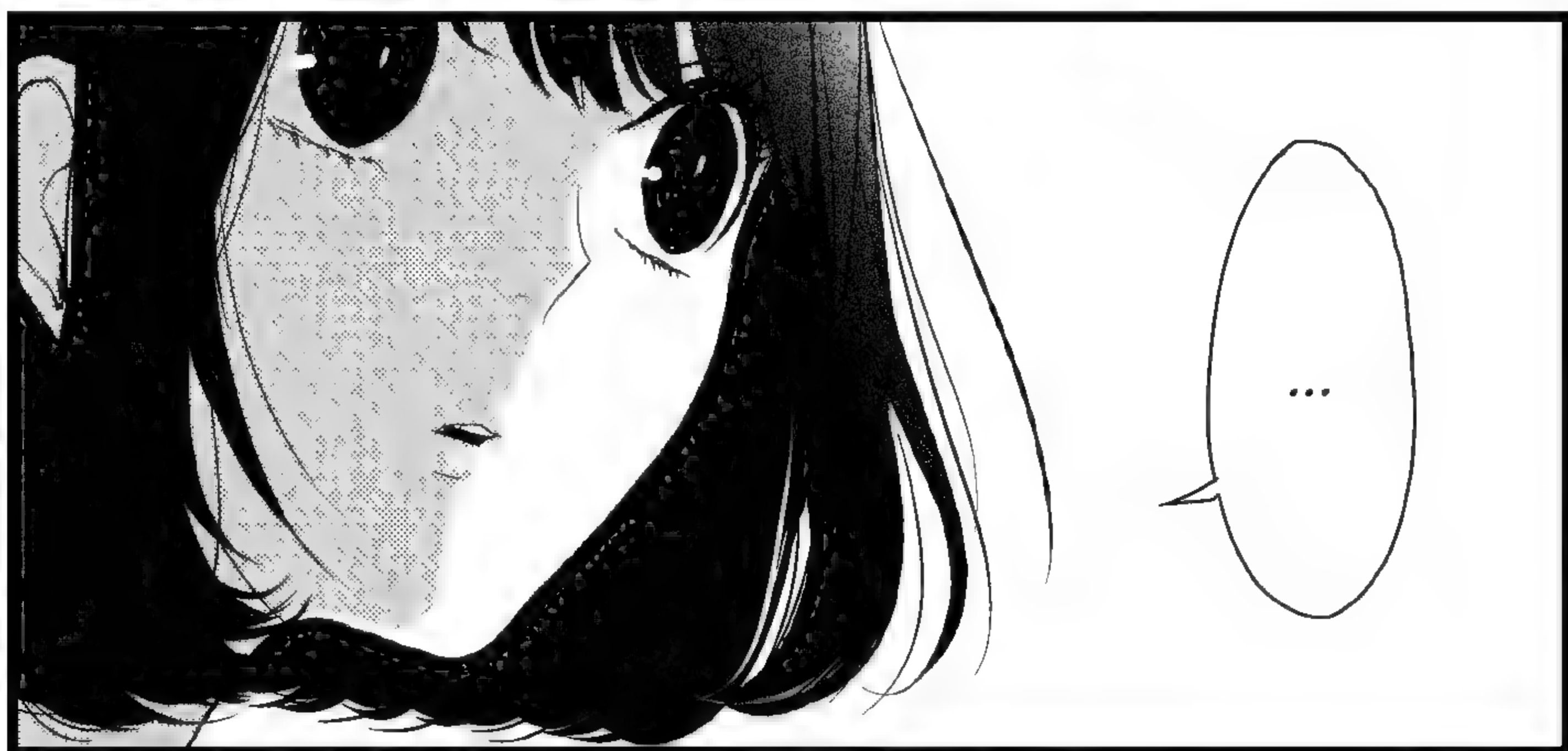
THAT'S WHY BEING ABLE TO STAND IN FRONT OF YOU AND SAY, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

...IS REALLY LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

HEY, WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



...





...IF YOU'LL
JUST FEEL
THE SAME
WAY, THAT'S
ALL I NEED
TO BE
HAPPY!

SO,
NEJIMA-
KUN...

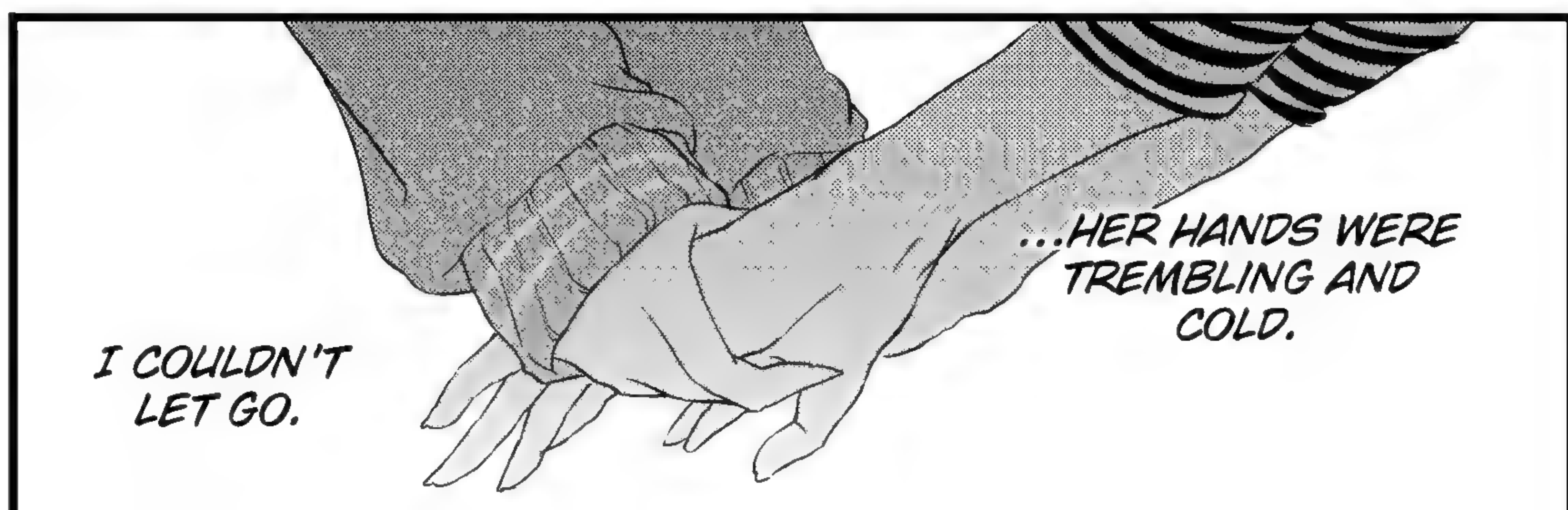


I FEEL
LIKE THIS
MEMORY
OF THESE
30
MINUTES
TODAY...

...CAN
KEEP ME
GOING
FOR
THE NEXT
70
YEARS.



AS TAKASAKI-SAN
SAID THAT...



I COULDN'T
LET GO.

...HER HANDS WERE
TREMBLING AND
COLD.

AND
NEITHER...

...COULD
SHE.

HUH?!
REALLY?!

MY
HOUSE
IS JUST
AROUND
THAT
CORNER.

SHOCK

...I'LL
TAKE
YOU
HOME...

IT'S
LATE...

U-
UM...

IF
YOU
LIKE...

"LET'S
GO RIGHT
NOW...
SOME-
WHERE
FAR
AWAY!"

AGAIN
AND
AGAIN,
THE
WORDS
ROSE IN
MY MIND,
ONLY TO
DISAP-
PEAR...

NEJIMA-
KUN...
YOU
REALLY
HAVEN'T
CHANGED.

HUH?

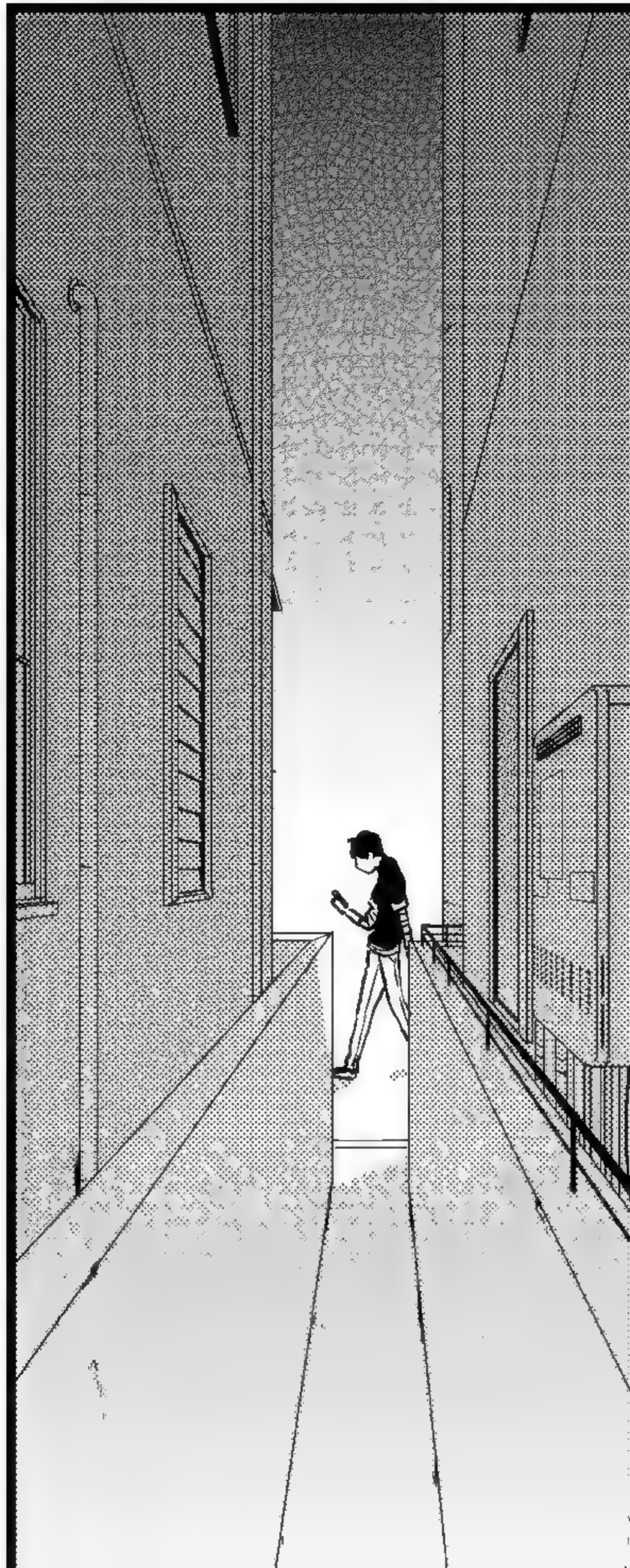
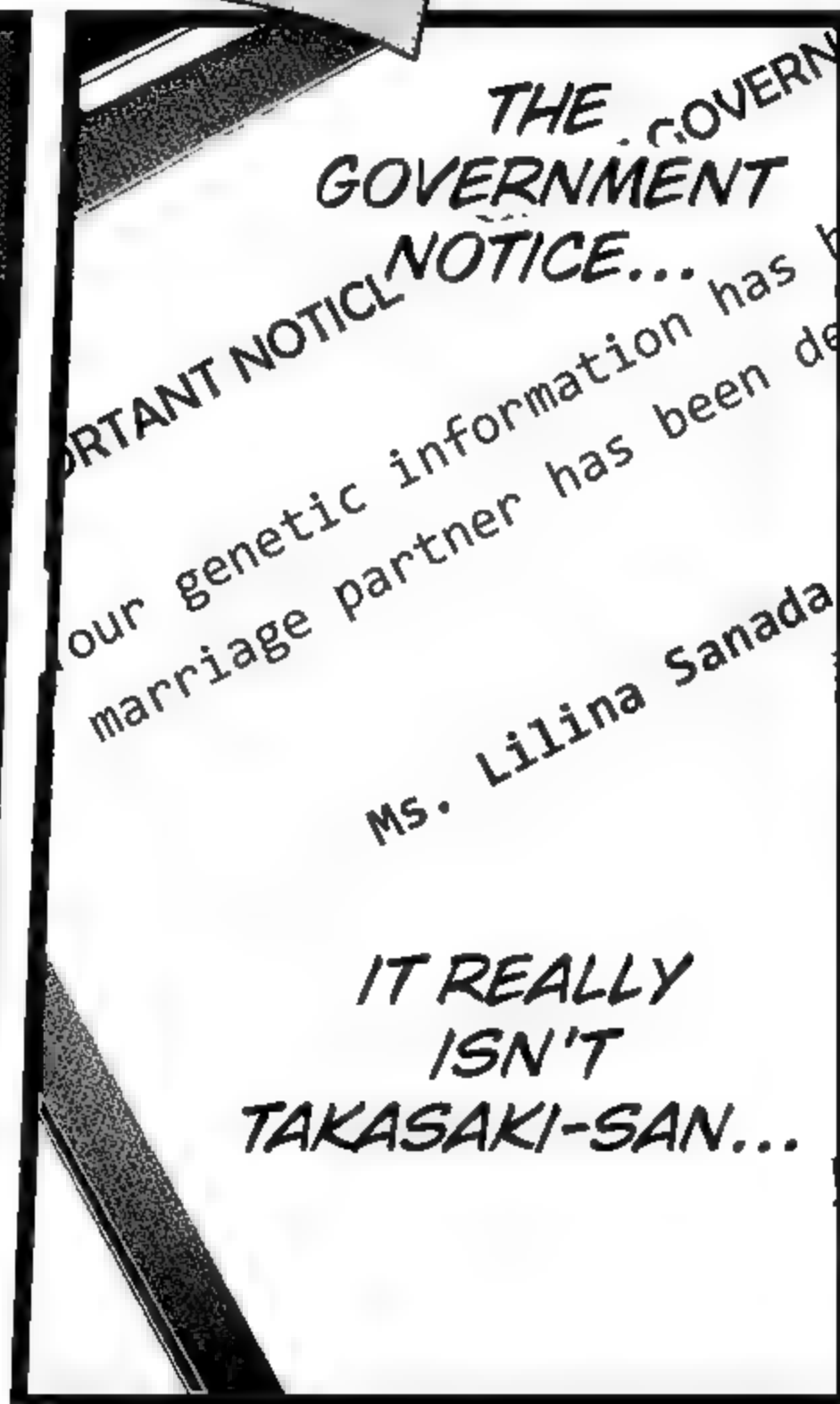
SHE
CRIED...
I MADE
HER
CRY!

WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?!
I DON'T
WANNA LET
TAKASAKI-
SAN GO
LIKE
THIS!

THEN
...

...

Hmm
Hm
Hm



...AND
SHE LOVES
ME BACK...



I LOVE
TAKASAKI-
SAN...



HM... I'M NOT
REALLY FEELING
LIKE THAT'S
RIGHT YET...

DO I WANT TO
MARRY HER?



SO...



BUT THAT FEELING...



I'M SURE IT WILL KEEP BURNING
WITHIN ME. IT WON'T GO AWAY.

...WHAT DO
I WANT TO
DO ABOUT
THAT?

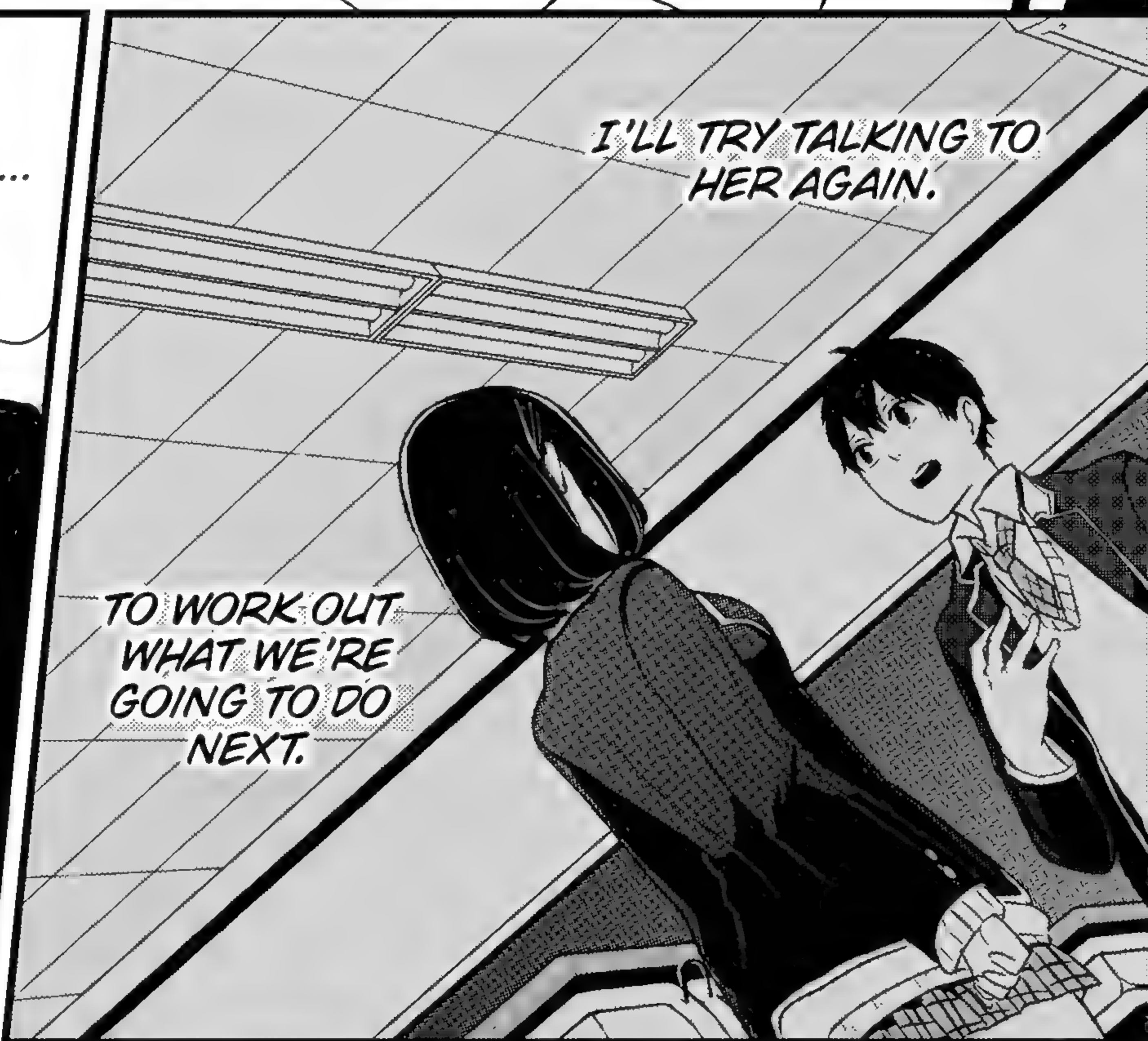


I LOVE
HER SO
MUCH!

I REALLY
DO LOVE
TAKASAKI-
SAN!



...



I'LL TRY TALKING TO
HER AGAIN.

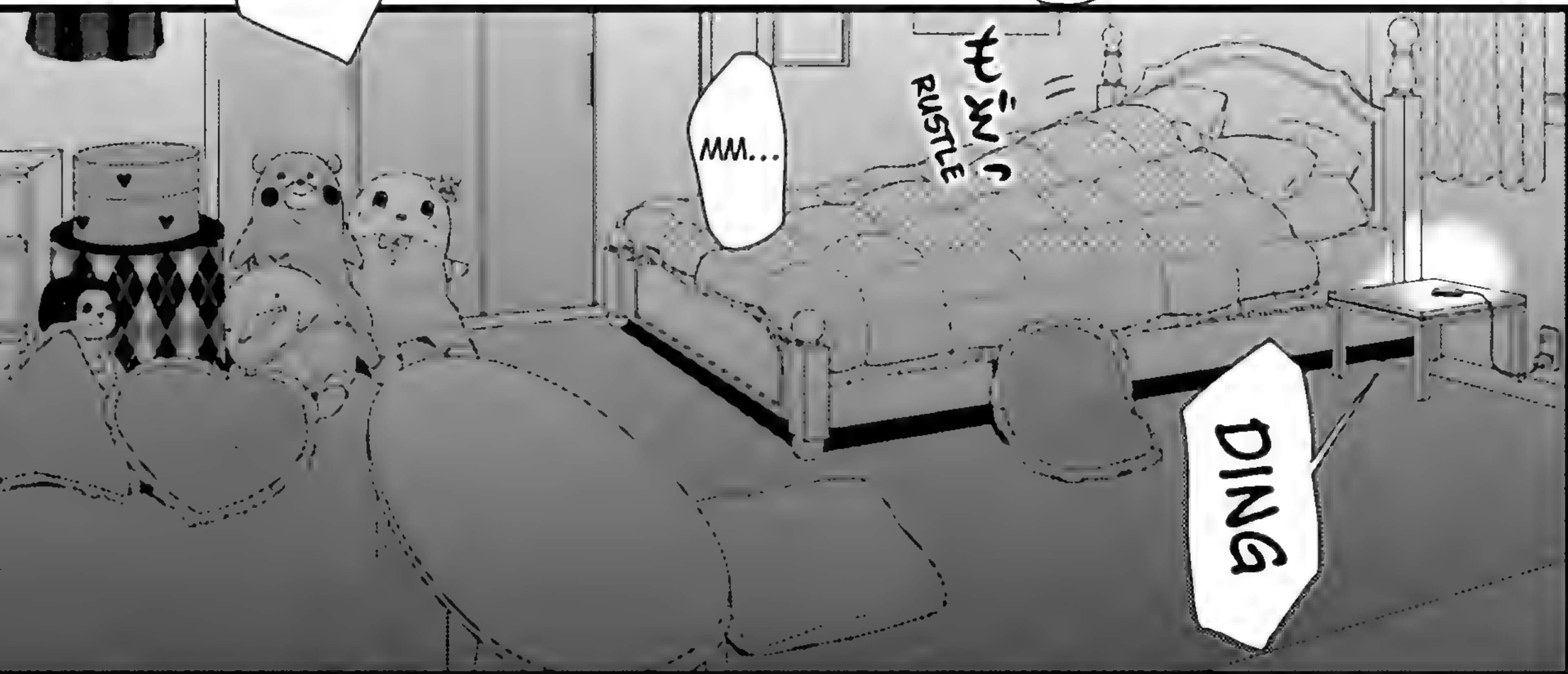
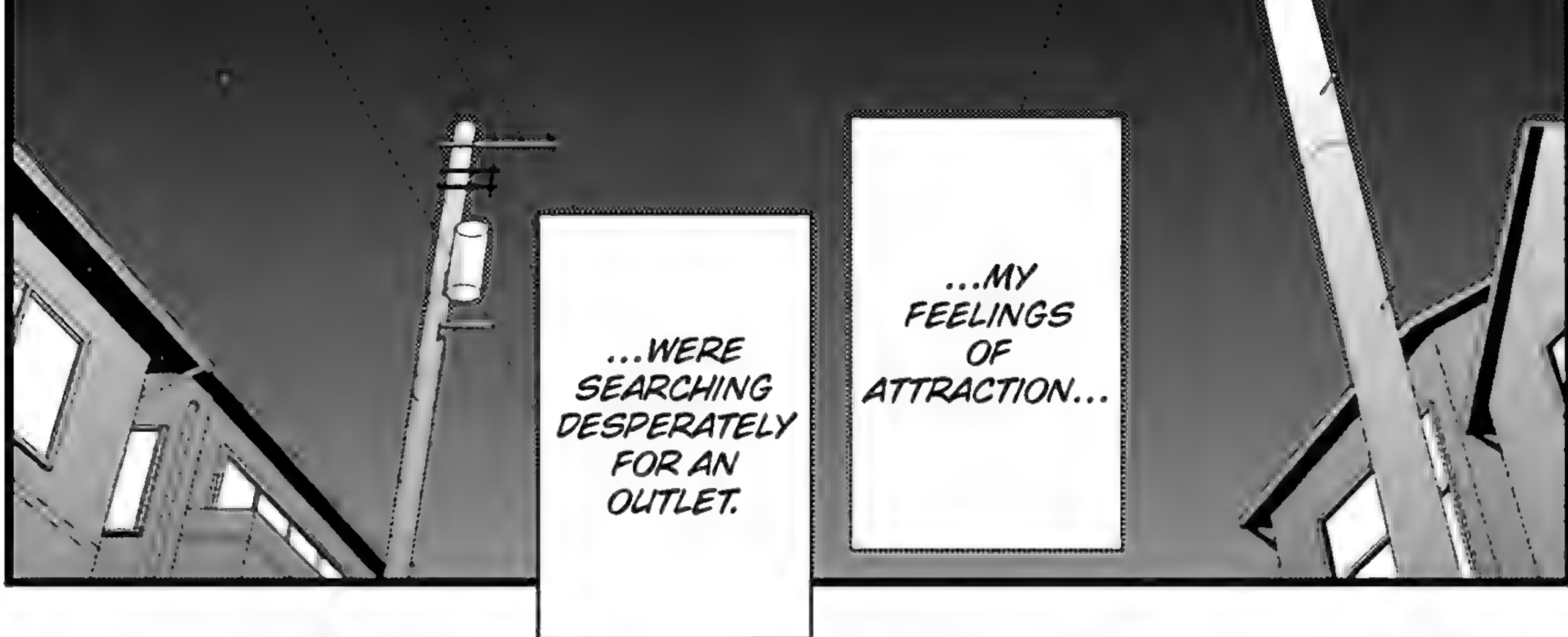
TO WORK OUT
WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO DO
NEXT.



BUT IN
THIS
SCREWED-
UP
WORLD...

I KNOW
WE CAN'T
CHOOSE
WHO WE
MARRY...

HER LIPS
WERE EVEN
SOFTER
THAN I
IMAGINED...





WHAT
AN ODD
NAME.



BADINA

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE
Your g... information
to... yzed
marr... has be
llowin...
kari Ne

...NEJIMA?

YUKARI
...

...IS
DECIDED.

...OUR
MARRIAGE
TO A
PERSON
WE HAVE
NO
CONNECTION
WITH
AT ALL...

THE
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE.

ONCE
THE
GOVERNMENT
DELIVERS
ITS DECISION
TO US...

OH!
GLAD
TO
HAVE
YOU
BACK!

HEE
HEE!
I MET
MY
HUSBAND
HERE,
TOO.

IT'S
OFTEN
USED AS
A FIRST
MEETING
PLACE FOR
YUKARI
COUPLES.

OUR
FAMILY
HAS RUN A
TRADITIONAL
RESTAURANT
AND INN
SINCE
THE EDO
PERIOD.

AND
I...

SO
THIS
IS HOW
IT ALL
ENDS
UP...

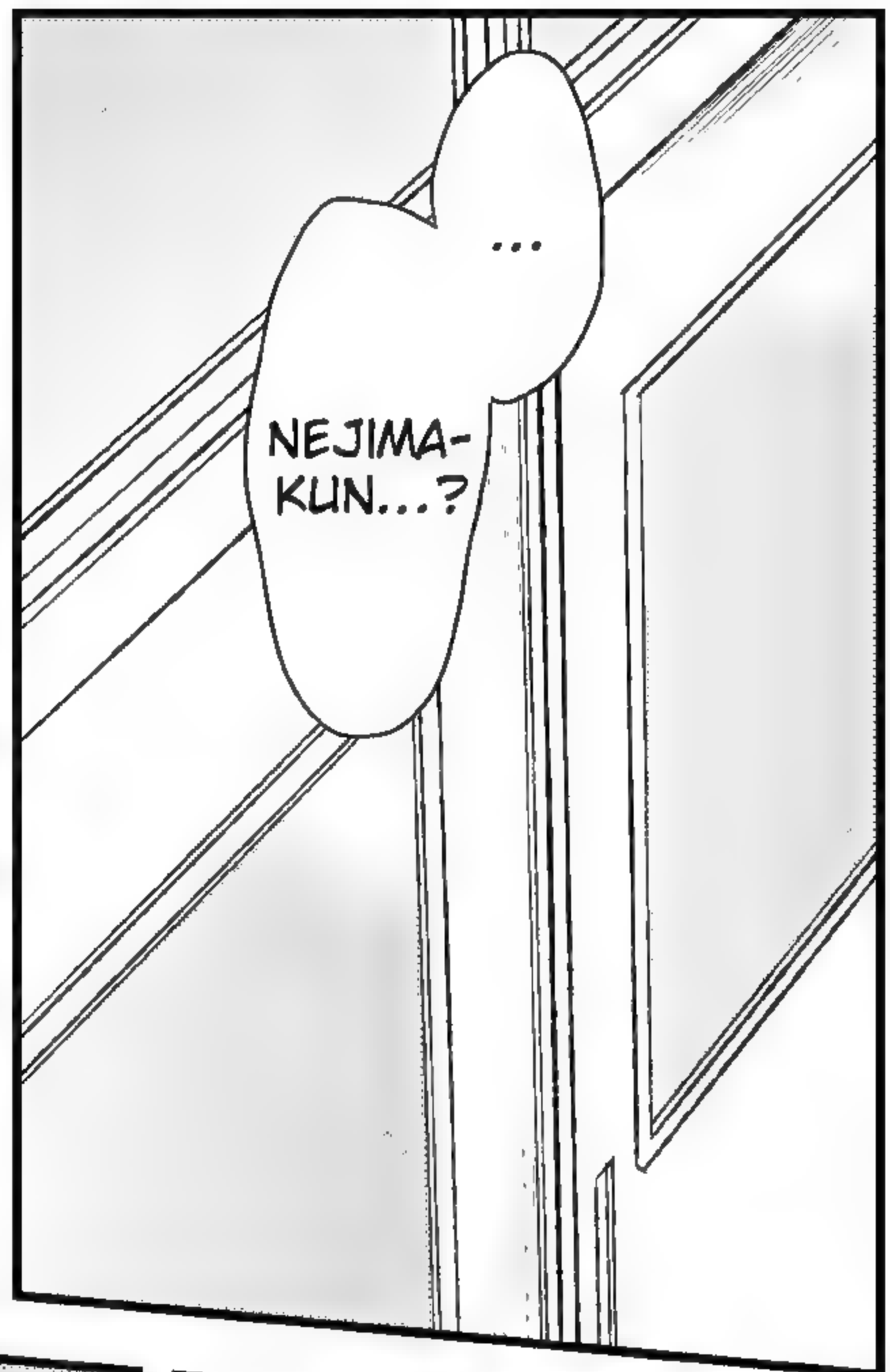
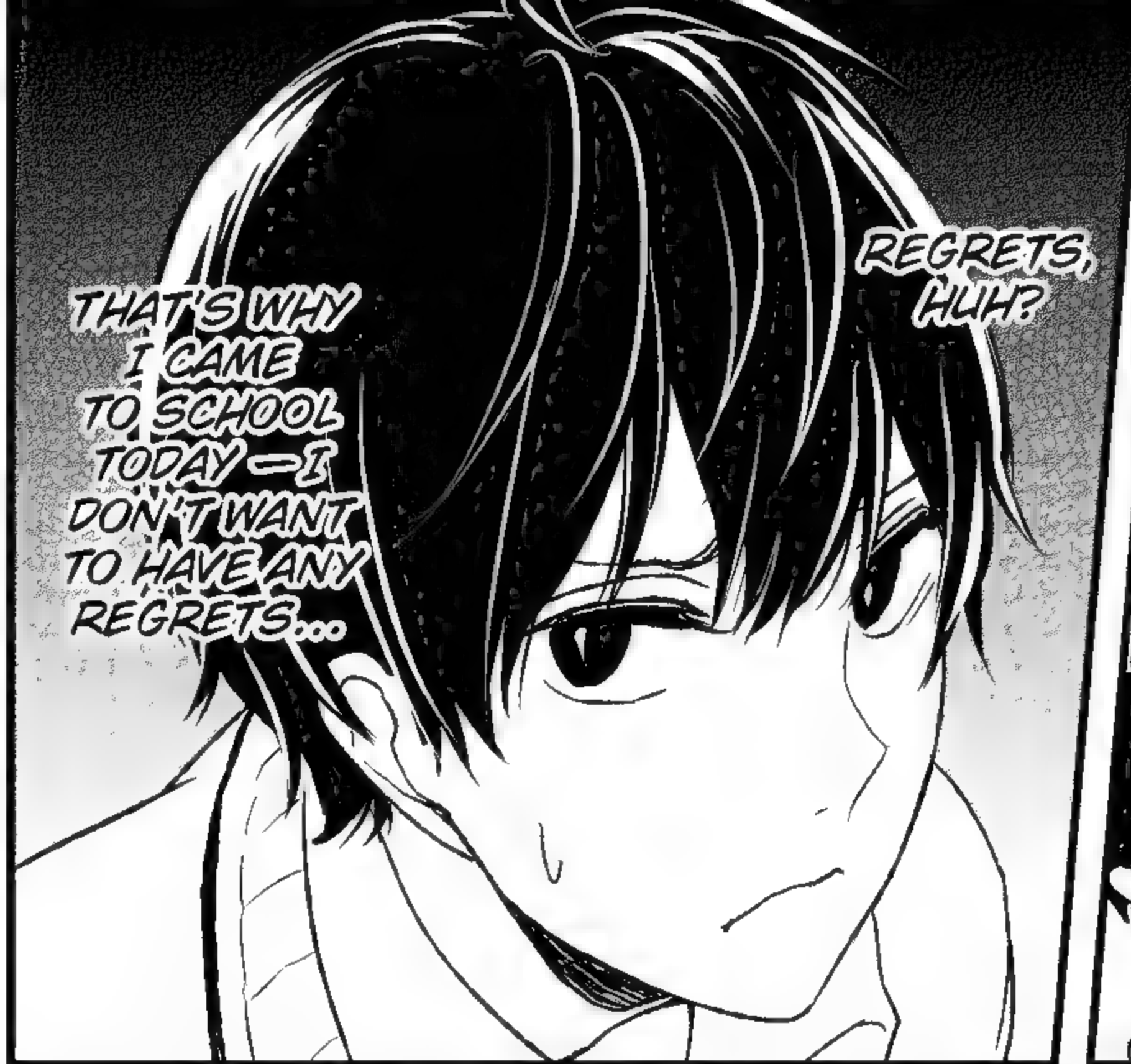
...AM NOW
GOING
TO MEET
MY
FUTURE...

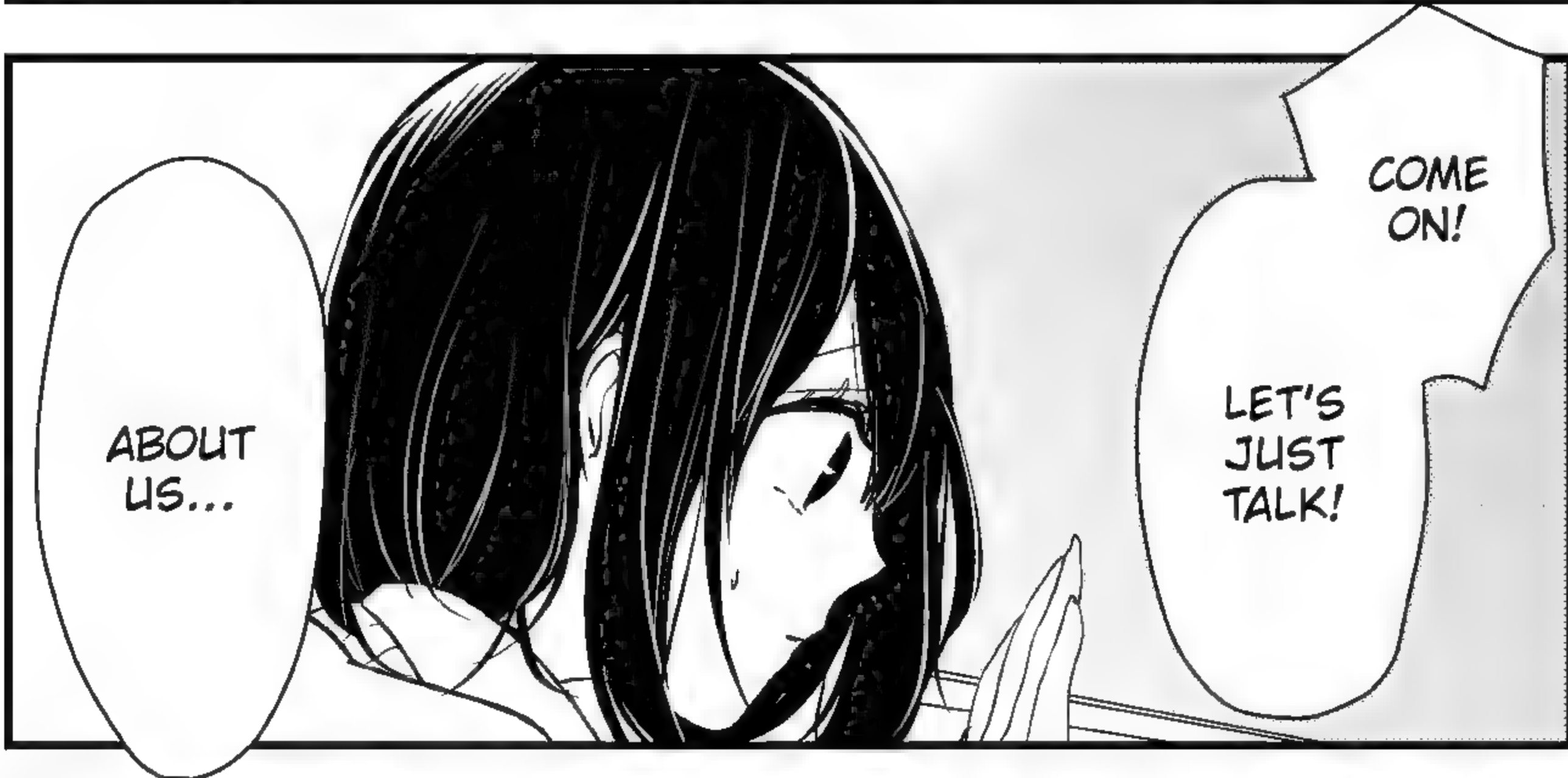
...WIFE.







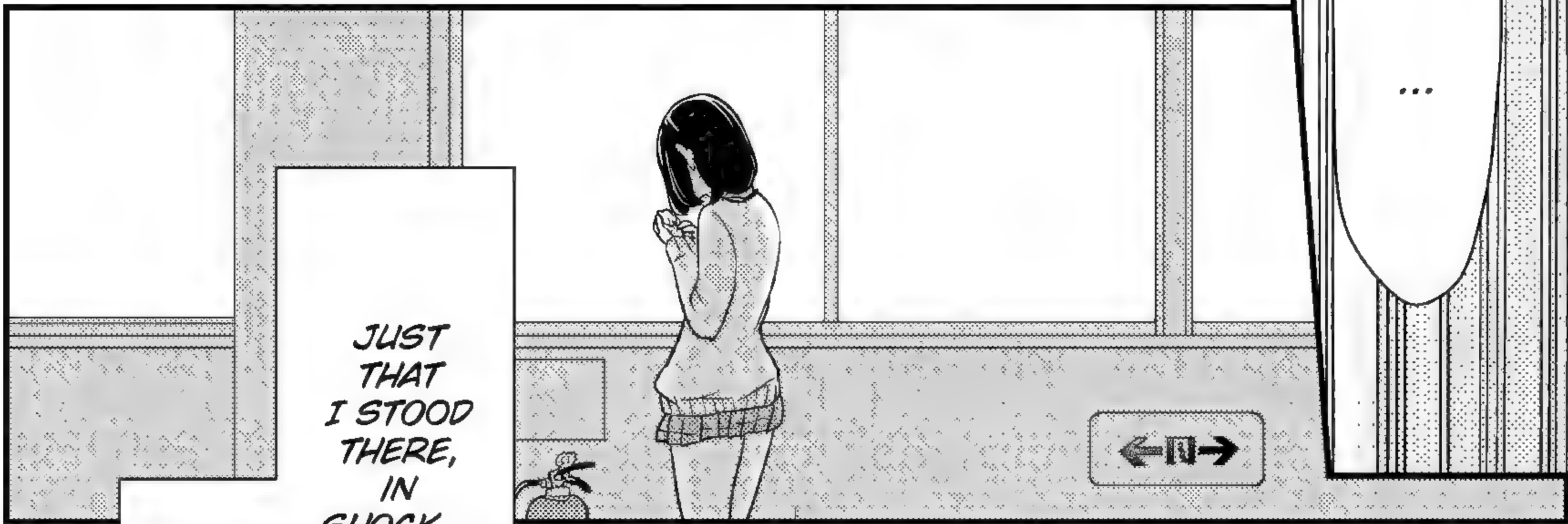




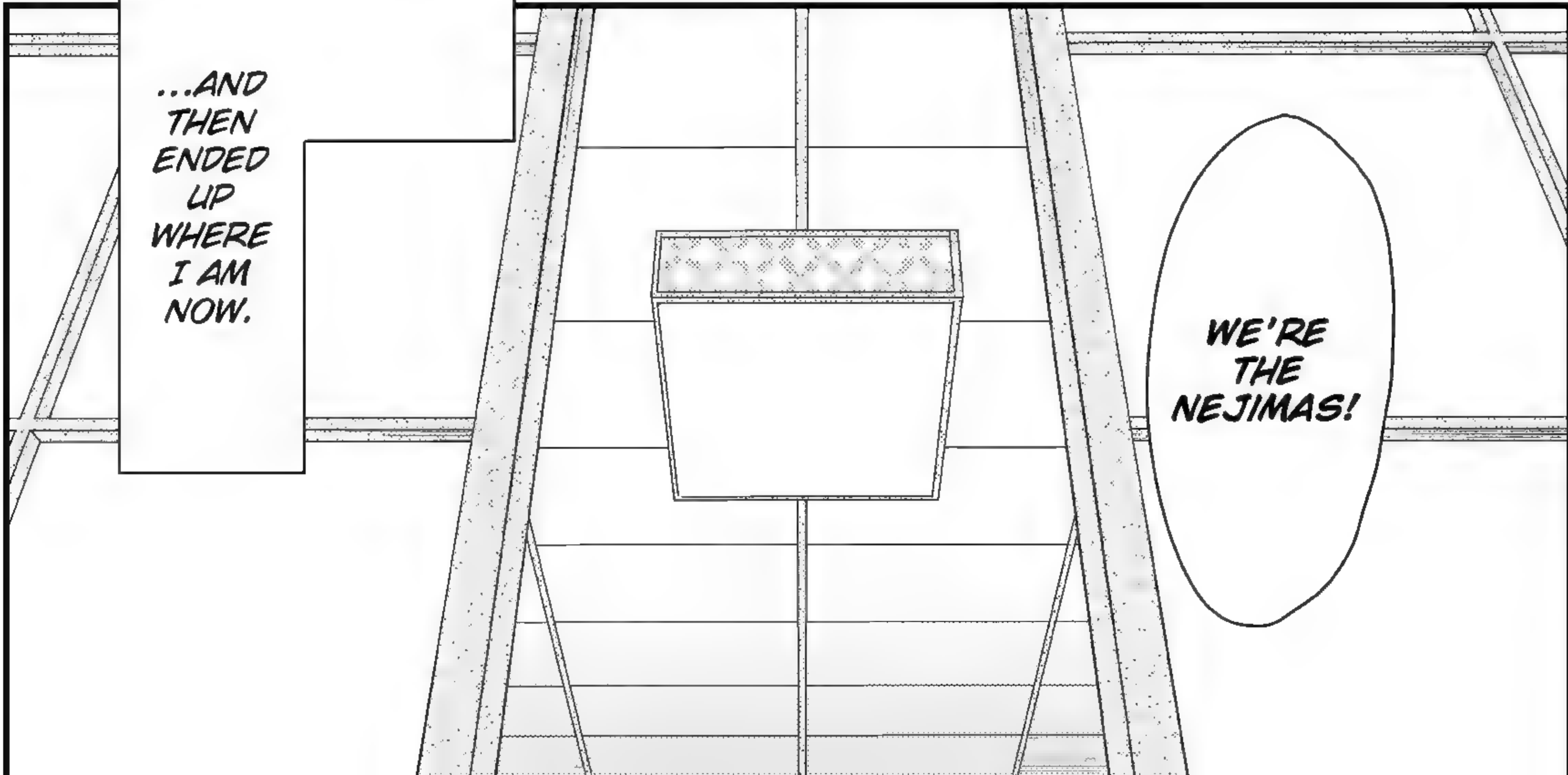




I DON'T
REALLY
REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED
AFTER
THAT.



JUST
THAT
I STOOD
THERE,
IN
SHOCK...



...AND
THEN
ENDED
UP
WHERE
I AM
NOW.

WE'RE
THE
NEJIMAS!







I'M
GOING
TO
MARRY
THAT
GIRL?!



JERK

WH—
WHAT THE
HECK!
SHE'S
REALLY
PRETTY!



...!



OH,
YEAH...
SHE...



TAKA...
SAKI...

YOU'RE
ONLY
MAKING
TROUBLE
FOR
ME.



SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE A DOLL...
SHE'S GOT BIG EYES
AND HER SKIN IS SO PALE...

I'VE NEVER
SEEN SOMEONE
SO PRETTY, ASIDE
FROM TAKASAKI-
SAN...

BADUMP

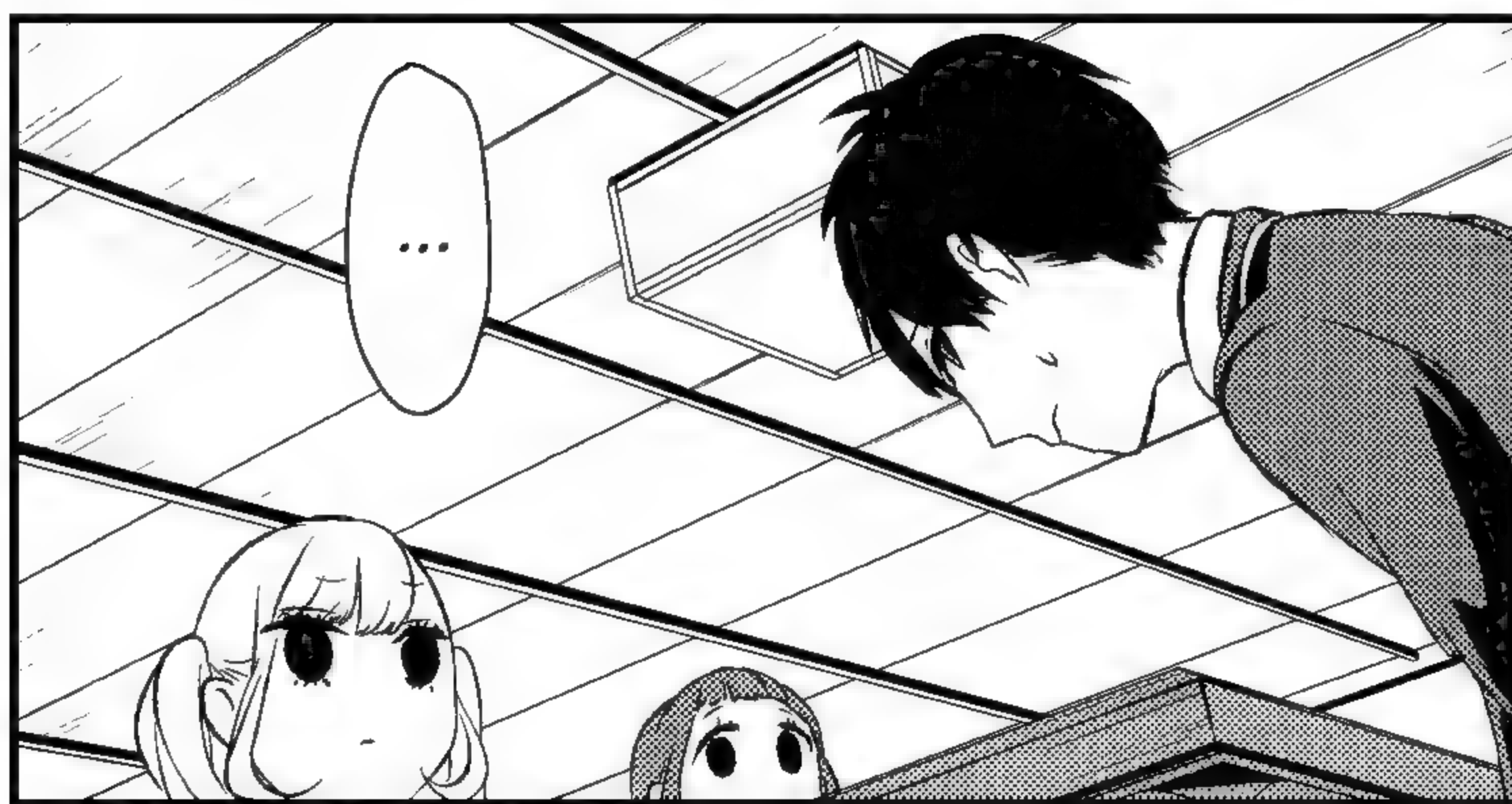
BADUMP



...HATES
ME NOW.



—...
SANADA.





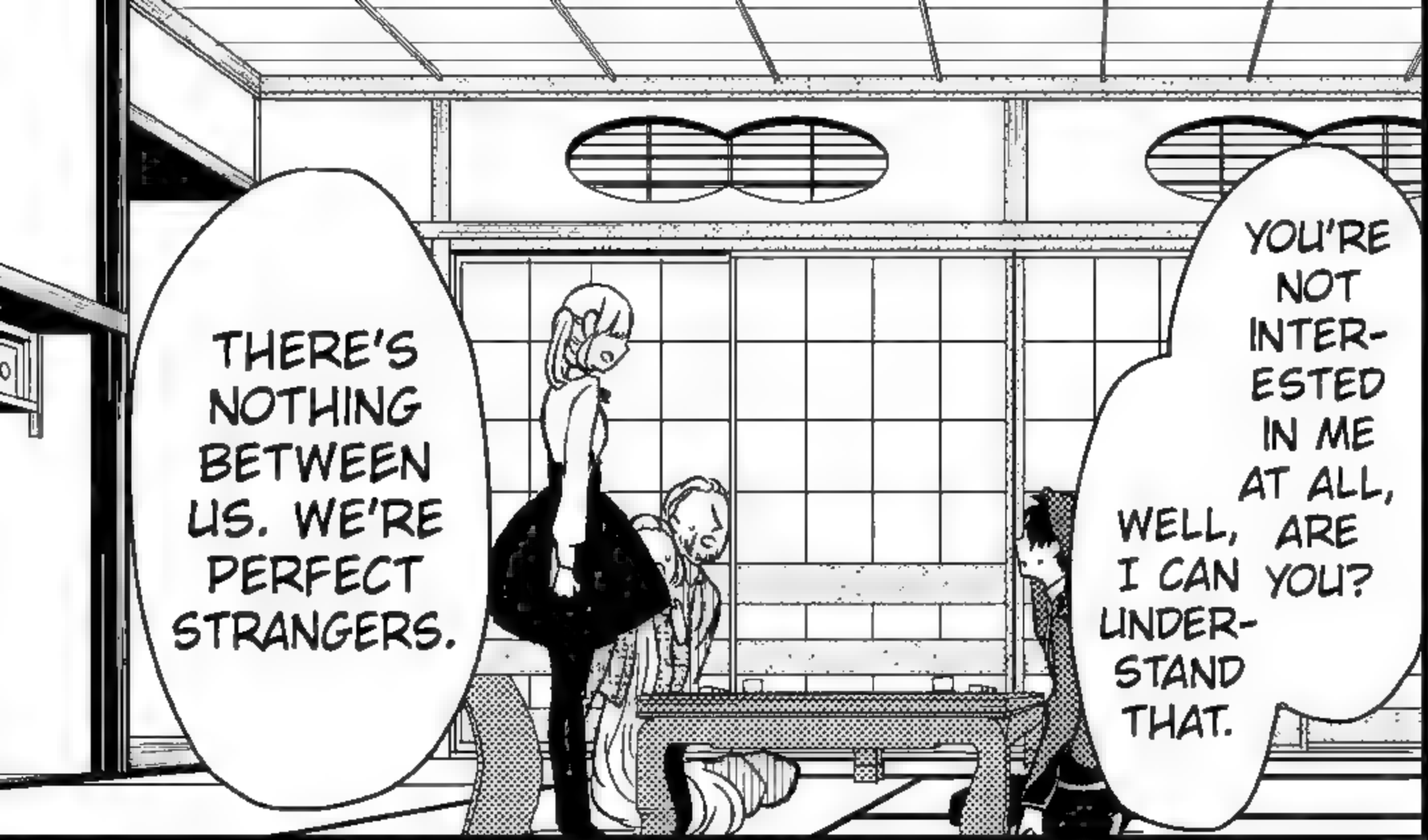


*NOTE: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE MANDATORY IN MOST JAPANESE SCHOOLS.



*NOTE: A TEA STEM FLOATING ERECT IN ONE'S CUP IS A GOOD OMEN.







THEY'RE
REALLY
HITTING
IT OFF,
ODDLY
ENOUGH!...



SIGH...
WHERE
DID SHE
GO...?



AND THEN
THEY
BREAK
OFF THE
ENGAGEMENT!...

WHAT IF
SHE
NEVER
COMES
BACK...



LILINA...
SAN?

HEY!
UM...



SIGH...

CLACK



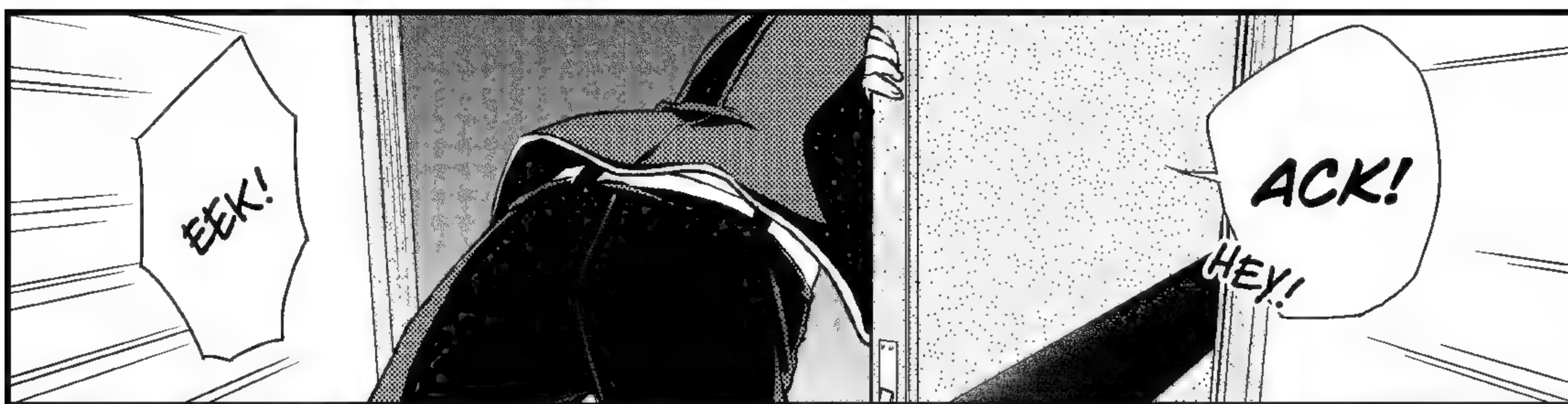
MAYBE THAT
GIRL'S RIGHT...

I'M RUDE AND
THOUGHTLESS...



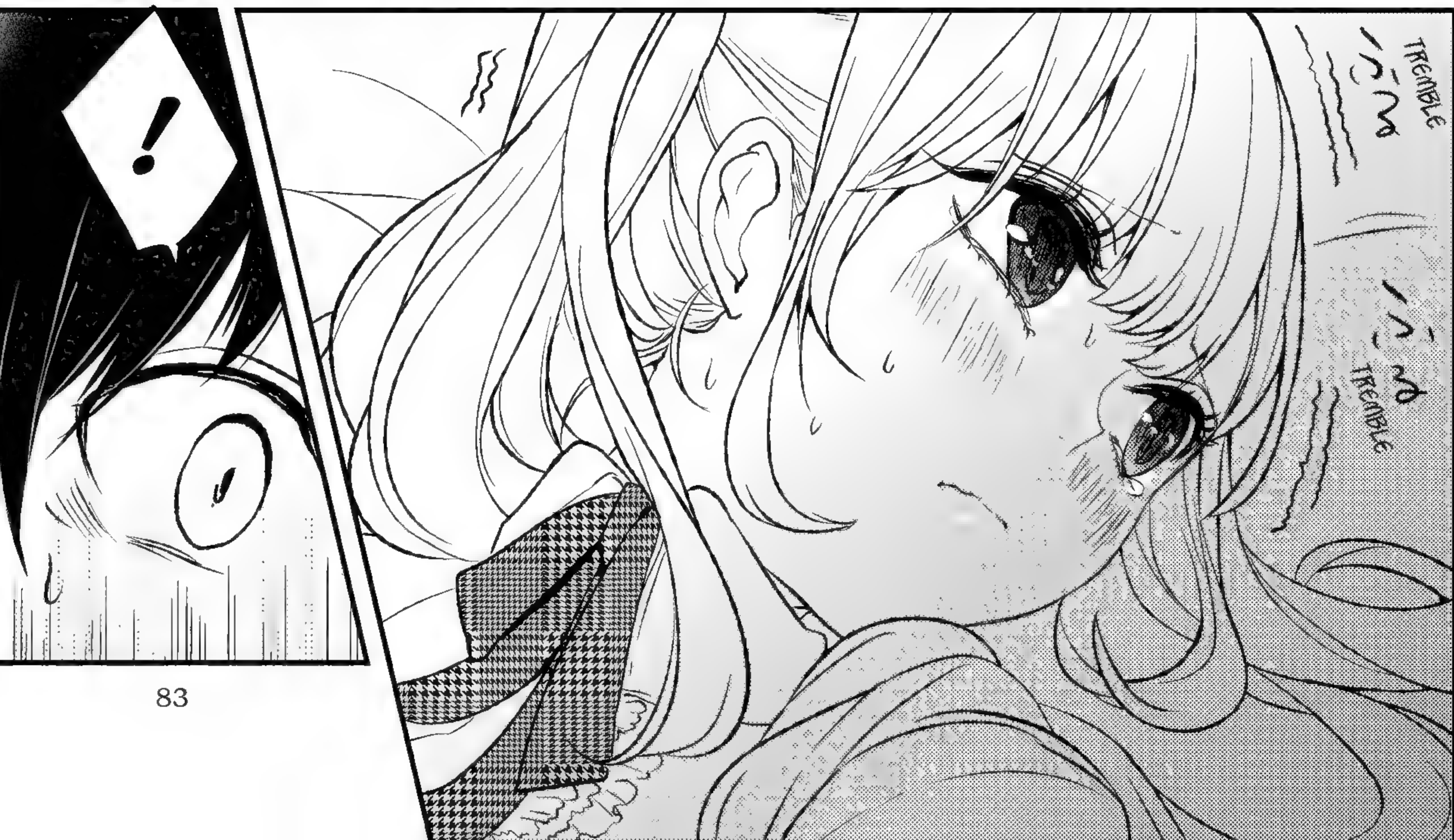
I'M
PATHETIC.

TAKASAKI-SAN
HATES ME,
BUT I'M
STILL
THINKING
ABOUT HER...











I CAN'T
GET
MARRIED,
NOW!

HOW
ARE YOU
GOING
TO TAKE
RESPON-
SIBILITY
FOR
THIS?!

THIS
SUCKS
...

IT
SURE
DOES
...

S-
SORRY...
ARE YOU
OKAY?

JERK
#0



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU!

HOW
CAN
YOU
TAKE
THIS
SO
LIGHTLY
?!

I—
I'M
SORRY...

AND
YOU'RE
A JERK,
TOO!



TEE-
HEE

UM...BY
MARRYING
YOU...
RESPONSI-
BLY?



FLINCH

DON'T
BE
STUPID!



NO, YOU
CAN'T EVEN
LOOK PEOPLE
IN THE EYE,
MUCH LESS
SCARE OFF
CROWS!
YOU'VE GOT
LESS SPINE
THAN A
SCARE-
CROW'S
EYEBALL!

YOU
COULDN'T
EVEN
BEAT
A
BALLOON!

STAB

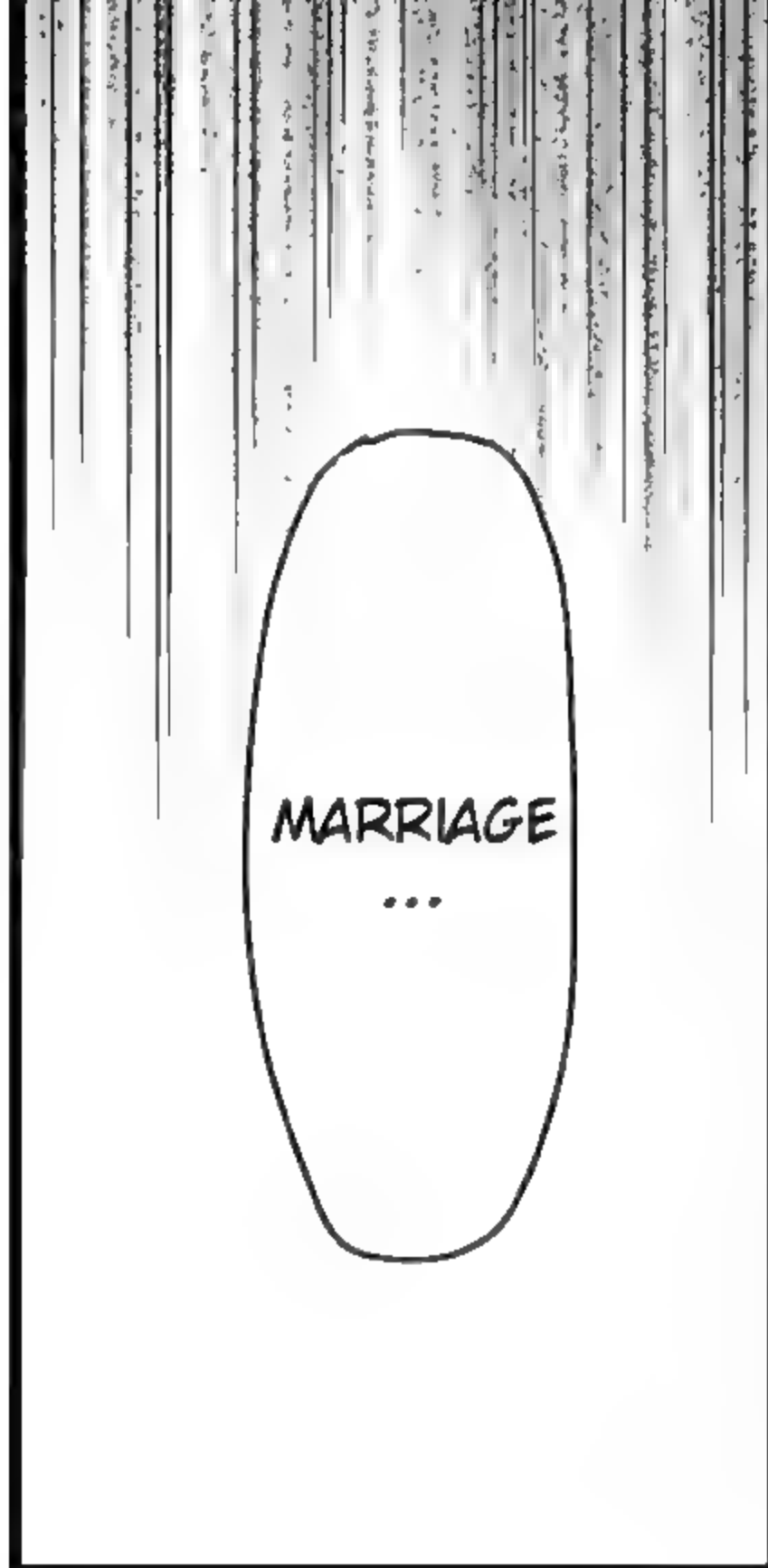
STAB

STAB

STAB

YOU'RE
LOWER
THAN
A
SCARE-
CROW!

EVEN
SCARECROWS
OUT IN
THE
FIELDS
HAVE
GOT
MORE
SPINE
THAN
YOU!





...YOU
WERE
SO
CRUEL
TO ME!

AND
EVEN
THOUGH
I WENT
THROUGH
ALL
THAT...



SHE'S JUST
LIKE ME.



OH...



MY PARTNER,
LILINA SANADA...

THIS
GIRL...



IT'S
UNREASON-
ABLE TO
JUST
FORCE
PEOPLE TO
PREPARE
THEM-
SELVES
FOR IT.

I MEAN,
I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
THE POINT
OR THE
SIGNIFICANCE
OF
MARRIAGE.

...I
WAS
SCARED,
TOO, I
THINK.

BEFORE I
FELL IN
LOVE...
BEFORE I
FELT LIKE
I WANTED
TO
EXPERIENCE
ROMANCE
...



LILINA...

...DIDN'T RUN AWAY.
SHE CAME, DESPITE
HER FEARS...

...TO MEET ME,
FACE TO FACE.



WHAT DO
I DO...?

HOW SHOULD I
APOLOGIZE?



BUT I...

I WAS SO
RUDE TO HER...



MAYBE
I...

...DISAPPOINTED
TAKASAKI-SAN
FOR THE SAME
REASONS.



ALL I COULD
THINK WAS...

... "I LOVE YOU"...



I WAS SO ELATED...

AND I DIDN'T
THINK...

I DIDN'T
CONSIDER
TAKASAKI-SAN'S
FEELINGS...

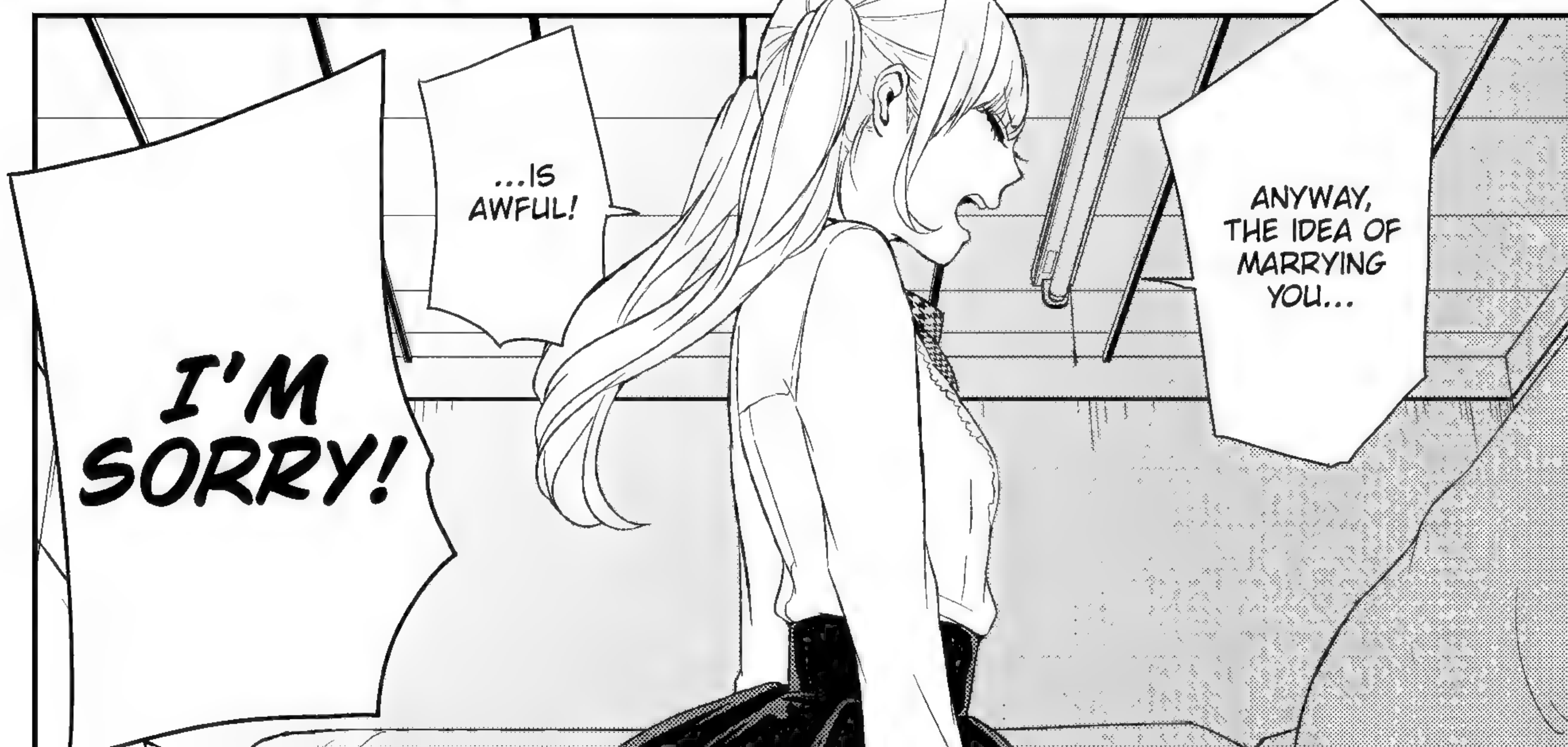
... WHEN I SAID
WHAT I DID...

... ABOUT WHY
SHE ACCEPTED
IT SO EASILY
WHEN I GOT MY
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE.

AND THAT'S WHERE I STOPPED THINKING.



DAMN
IT!



... IS
AWFUL!

I'M
SORRY!

ANYWAY,
THE IDEA OF
MARRYING
YOU...







YOU WERE RAILING ON AND ATTACKING ME, SO I JUST FELT OVERWHELMED!

THAT'S RUDE! I CAN TALK JUST FINE!

SO I THOUGHT YOU MUST BE BAD AT TALKING.

YOU ONLY SAID STUFF LIKE "YEAH" AND "UH-HUH"...



HUH?

...ACTUALLY TALK, HUH?

...BUT ANYWAY, YOU CAN...
EHEHEHE!



UHM... ABOUT THAT...

AN AXO-
WHAT?

YOU WERE MORE SPACEY THAN AN AXOLOTL.

YOU WERE ZONING OUT LONG BEFORE I STARTED TALKING.



BUT THIS MORNING, SHE TOLD ME SHE HATES ME.



RECENTLY, SHE FOUND OUT HOW I FEEL...

I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE FOR A LONG TIME.

...



...IN
LOVE?



OH,
BUT I
GUESS
THAT'S
NO
EXCUSE.

...A
LITTLE
DOWN...

THAT'S
WHY
I'VE
BEEN...



OH
CRAP!



OH...

HUH?
...



YES
...

...MORE
ABOUT
THIS.



HEY.

TELL
ME...

UH,
UM...

BUT
NOW,
I...

AM I SOME
KIND OF IDIOT,
TELLING THE
GIRL I'M GOING
TO MARRY THAT
I'M IN LOVE
WITH SOMEONE
ELSE?

I-I'VE GOTTA
BACKPEDAL, QUICK!

I DUG IT!



I WAS SO SCARED, I DIDN'T LOOK AT LILINA'S FACE, EVEN ONCE.

EVERY-THING THAT HAP-PENED SINCE WE WERE IN FIFTH GRADE.

IN THE END, I TALKED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH TAKASAKI-SAN...

SHE'S RIGHT...

I'M WORSE THAN A SCARECROW.

...OKAY...

WHAT WILL SHE SAY?!

THE END.

SHE TOLD ME I'M JUST TROUBLE AND SHE WENT BACK TO HER CLASS-ROOM.

...BASI-CALLY...

YUKARI...

SPARKLE





LIKE
SUDDENLY
GLANCING AT
HER IN CLASS,
OR FEELING
HAPPY
WHEN SHE
SMILES...

I-I
DIDN'T
THINK
SO...

IT'S
MORE
LIKE...
KINDA
FREE AND
FUN?



SO
WHAT IS
LOVE,
THEN?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

...I
DON'T
GET IT.



UH,
YOU'RE
THAT
INTER-
ESTED
IN IT?



HER
SHIRT
BUTTON
IS
OPEN!



WHAT DO I
MEAN?

AND
WAIT...





SOME PEOPLE CALL THE GOVERNMENT NOTICE THE "RED THREAD OF SCIENCE," BUT...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE MY ARRANGED PARTNER IS SO INTO TALKING ABOUT ROMANCE.

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE CONNECTED BY THE RED THREAD OF DESTINY!*

BUT IT'S SO WONDERFUL...

*NOTE: IN EAST ASIAN CULTURES, LOVERS ARE SOMETIMES SAID TO BE CONNECTED BY A RED THREAD WHICH DESTINES THEM TO MEET.



I THINK YOU JUST READ TOO MANY CELL PHONE NOVELS.*

THERE MUST BE SOME DEEP REASON FOR ALL OF THIS!

LIKE A MYSTERIOUS ORGANIZATION BENT ON TEARING THE TWO OF YOU APART, OR SOME VAST INFLUENCE...

*NOTE: TRASHY NOVELS WRITTEN TO BE READ ON CELL PHONE, SIMILAR TO FORMULA ROMANCE FICTION IN THE WEST.



...WHY TAKASAKI-SAN SAID THAT.

...I'LL HELP YOU FIND OUT...

IF YOU WANT...

ANYWAY!

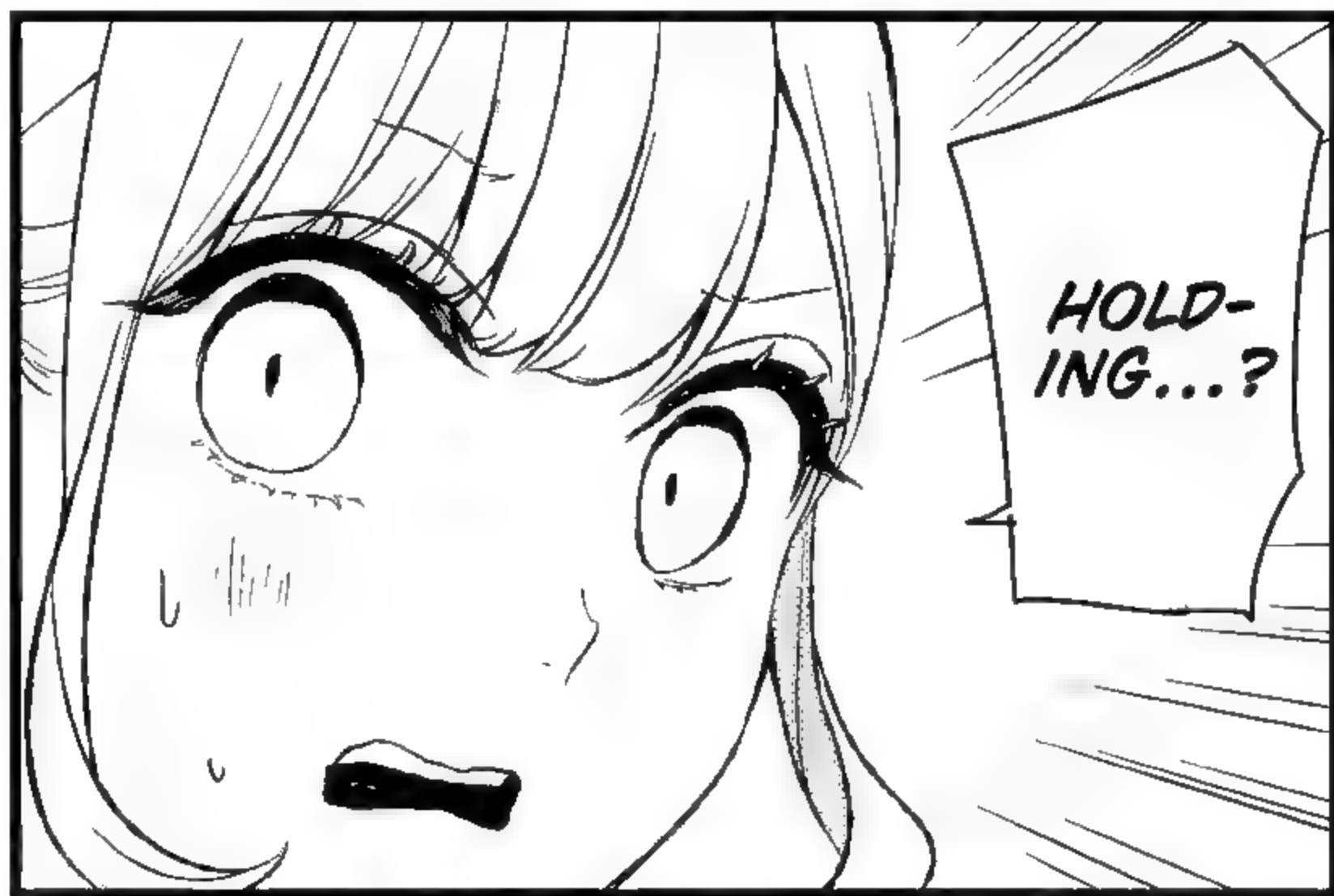




IF WE
COME OUT
HOLDING
HANDS,
I'M SURE
THEY WON'T
ASK
QUESTIONS!

OH!

GREAT
IDEA!



HOLD-
ING...?



WHY
DON'T
WE JUST
PRETEND
WE MADE
UP?



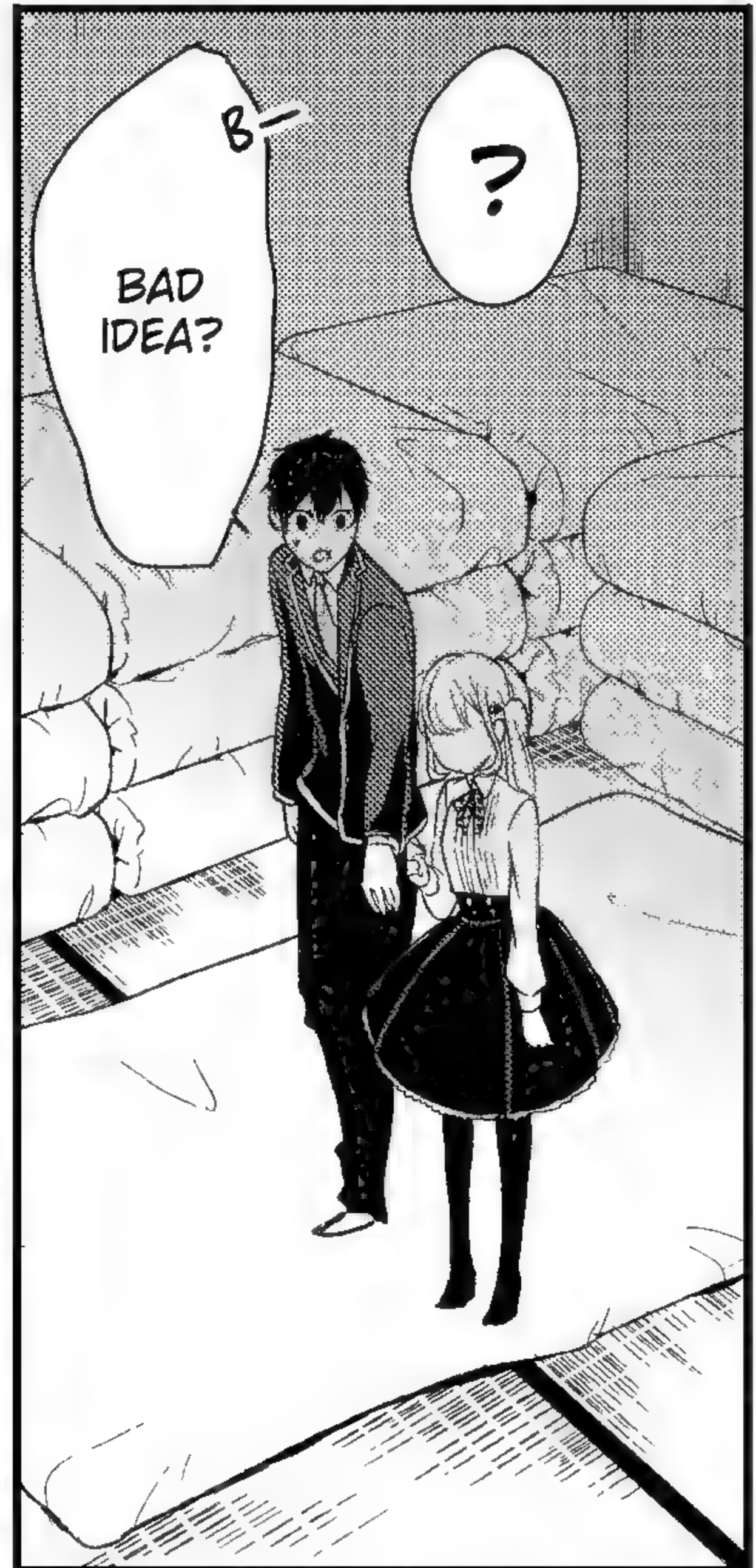
OH!
BUT...

TWITCH
ヒ
ン...



I
DON'T
MIND...

...IF IT'S
JUST
TO
TRICK
THEM...



B-
BAD
IDEA?

?

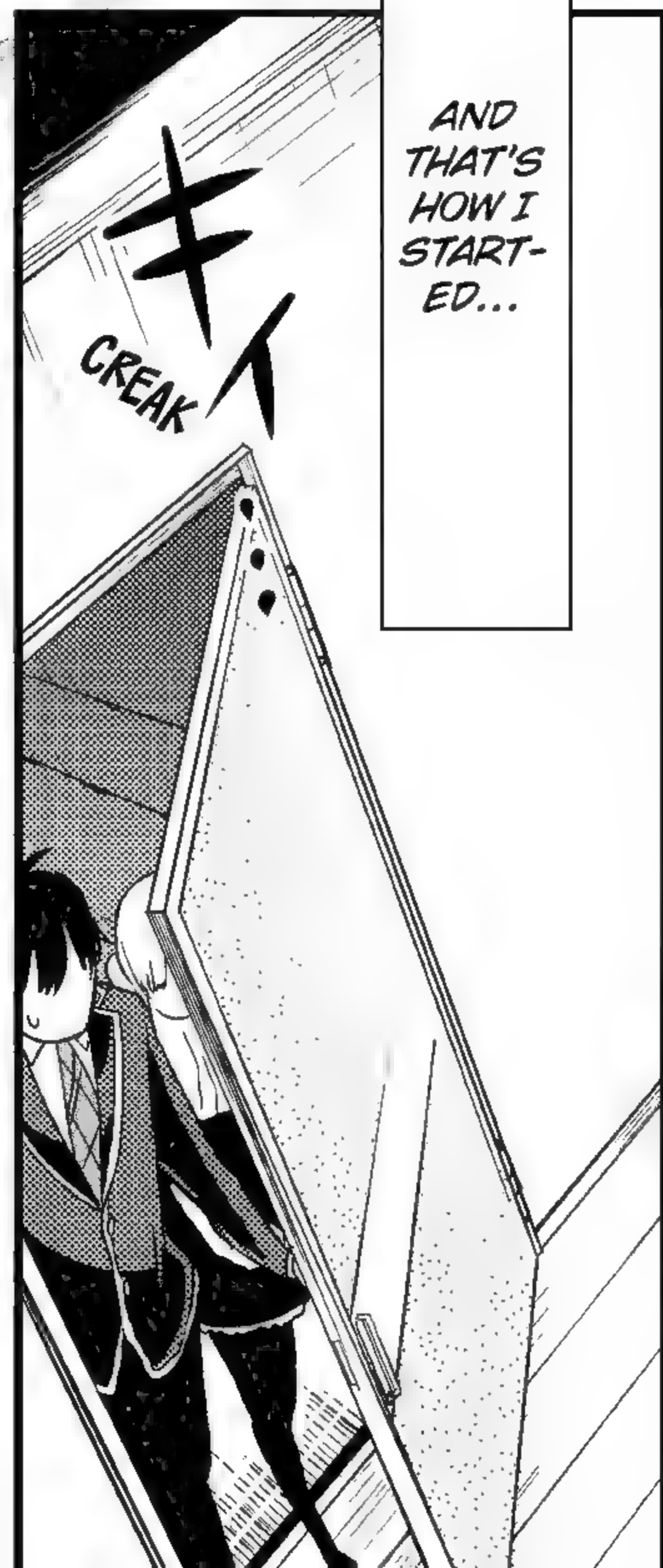




THIS IS...
...KIND OF A WEIRD SITUATION.



...TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF THE GIRL I LIKE...
...WITH HELP FROM MY FUTURE WIFE.



CREAK

AND THAT'S HOW I STARTED...



BUT...



...TO
HAVE
SOMEONE
WITH
ME...

...INSTEAD
OF BEING
ALONE
IN THIS.

FOR A
MOMENT, IT
SEEMED TO
ME THAT
IT WAS
KIND OF
NICE...



OH!



LOOKS
LIKE
IT!

LOVERS'
QUARREL
ALREADY
?

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
SAY SO
SOONER,
IDIOT!!

ERK!

SMACK



HUH?

カアアア

BLUSH

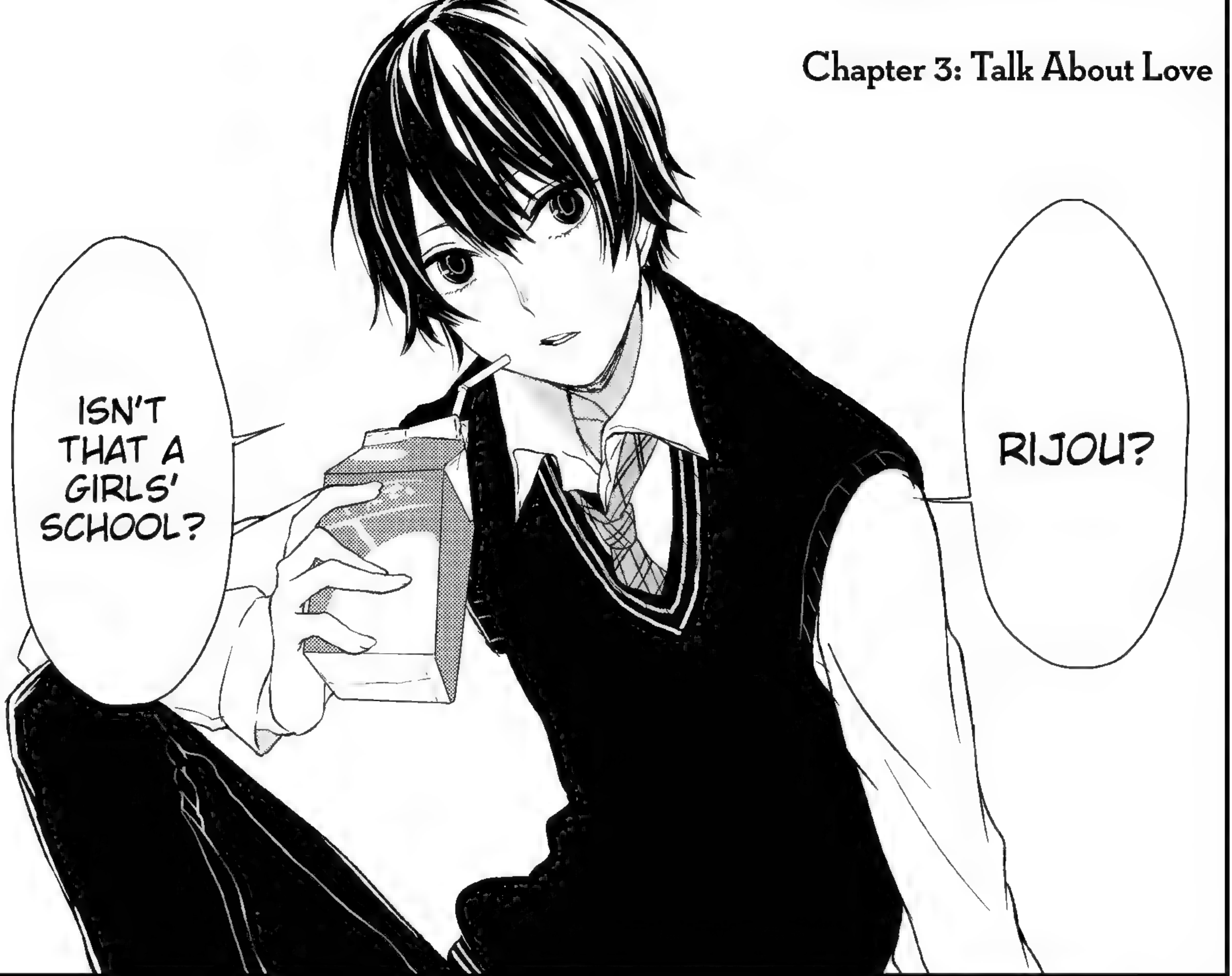
HUH?!

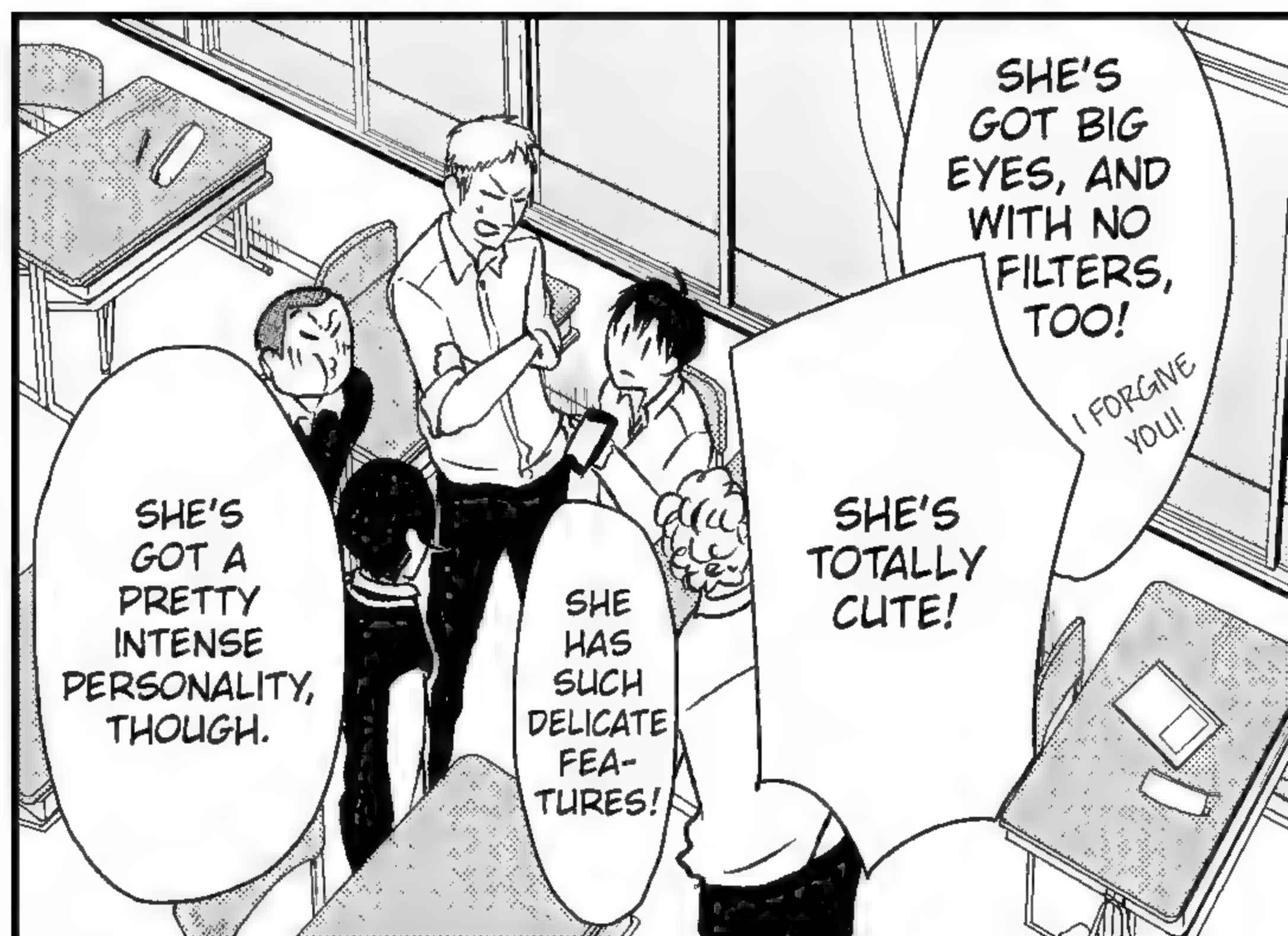
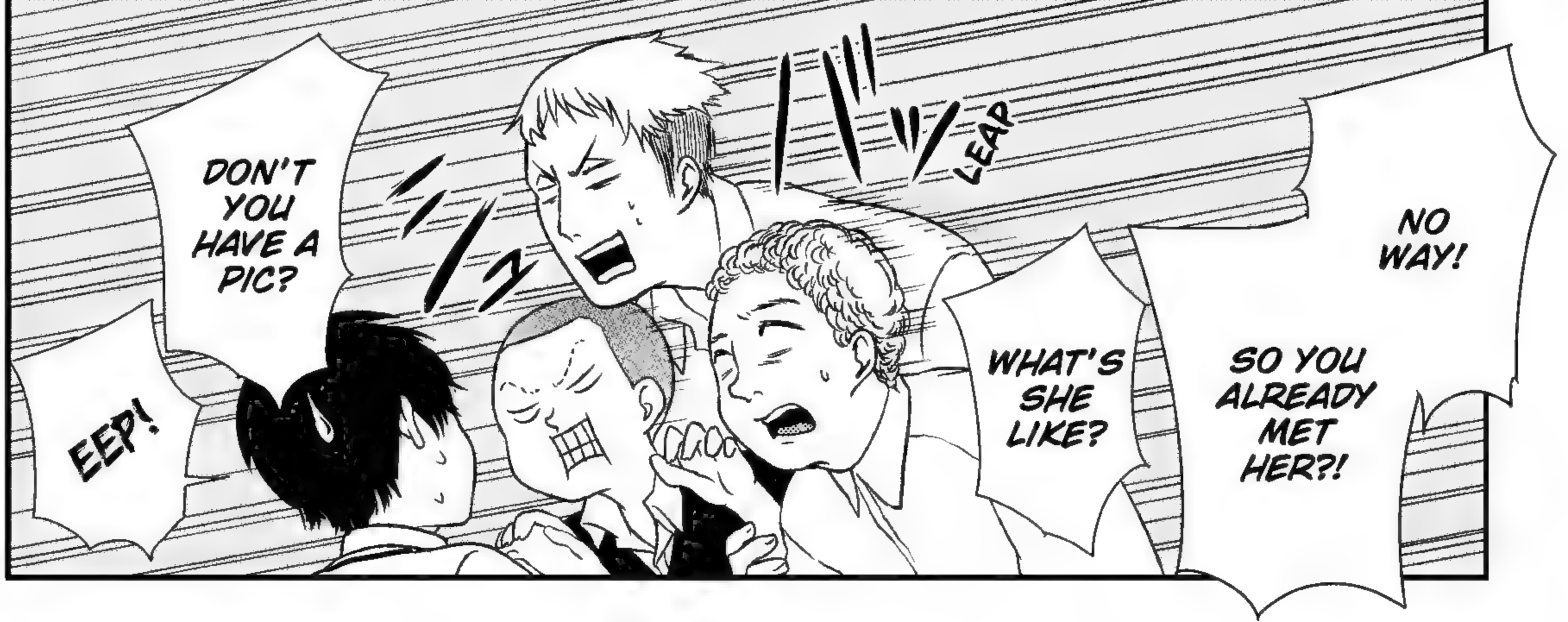


SORRY...
UM...

THE
BUTTON
ON YOUR
SHIRT IS
OPEN...

IT HAS BEEN
FOR A WHILE.







...

I CAN'T
IMAGINE
I'M IN
HER
LEAGUE.

SHE'S
GOT A
PRETTY
FACE,
SHE'S
SMART...

...SO WHY
IS SHE MY
PARTNER?



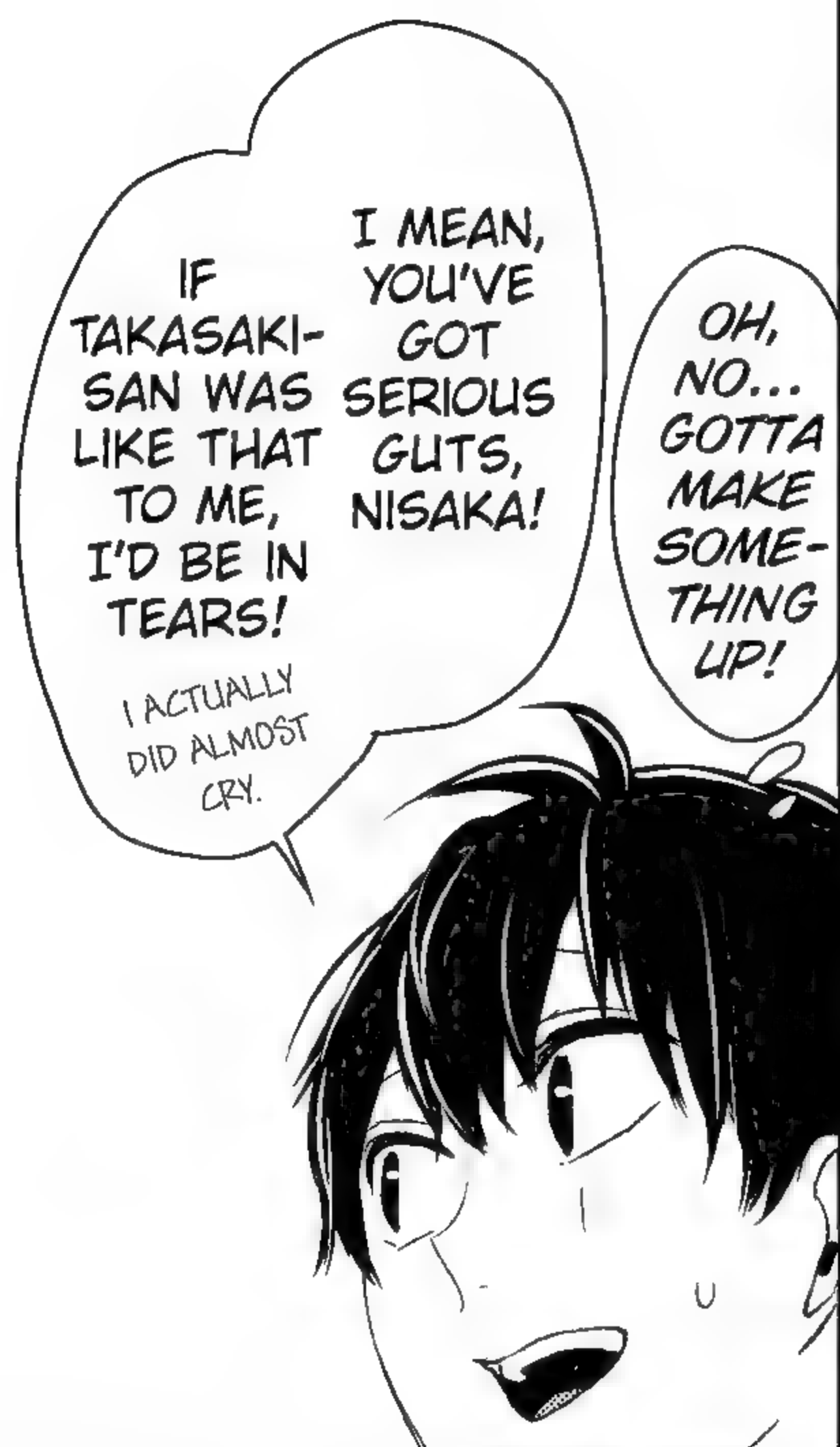
YOU
WANT
TO TAKE
A LOOK
TOO,
TAKASAKI-
SAN?

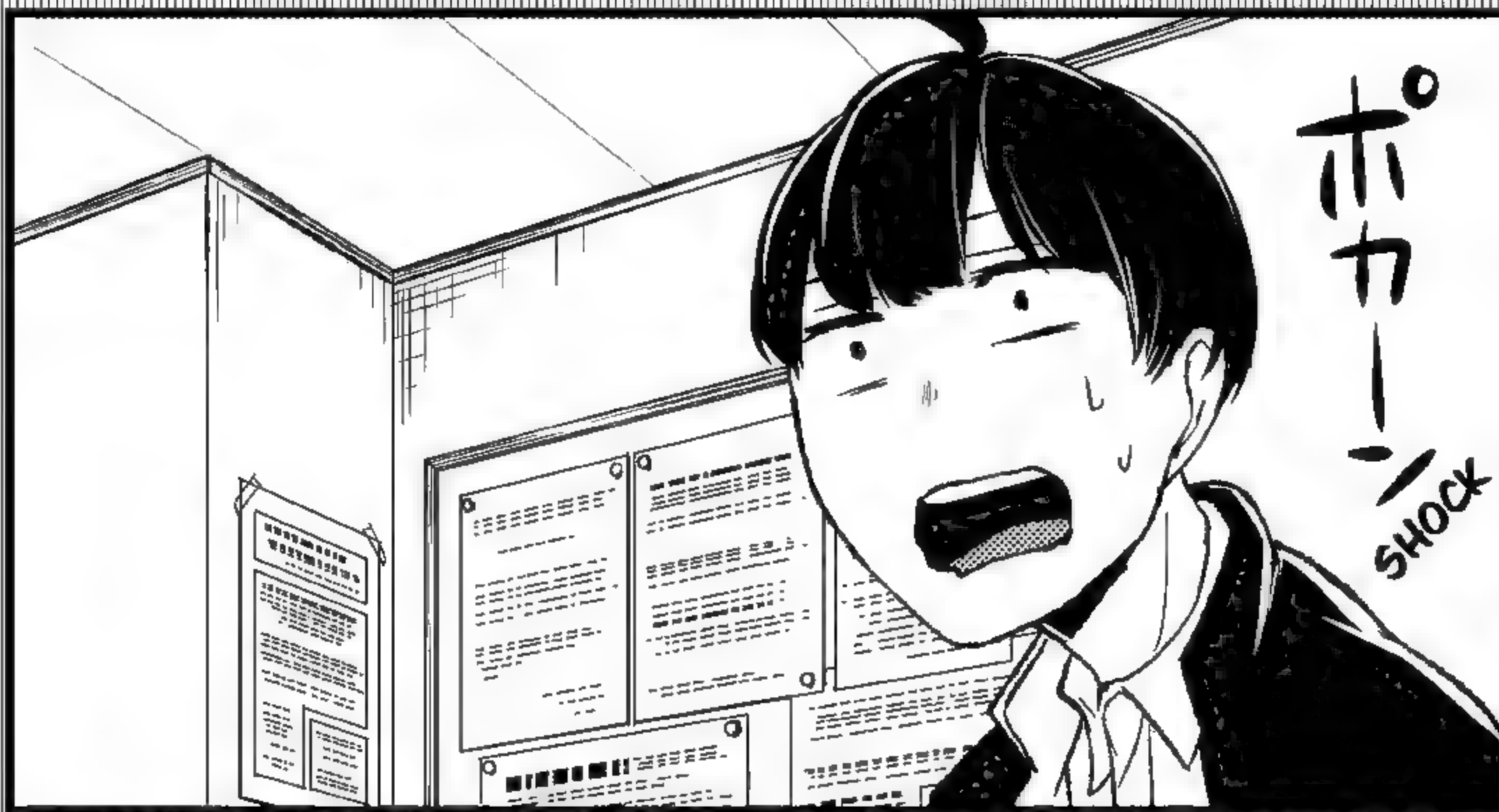


HUH?





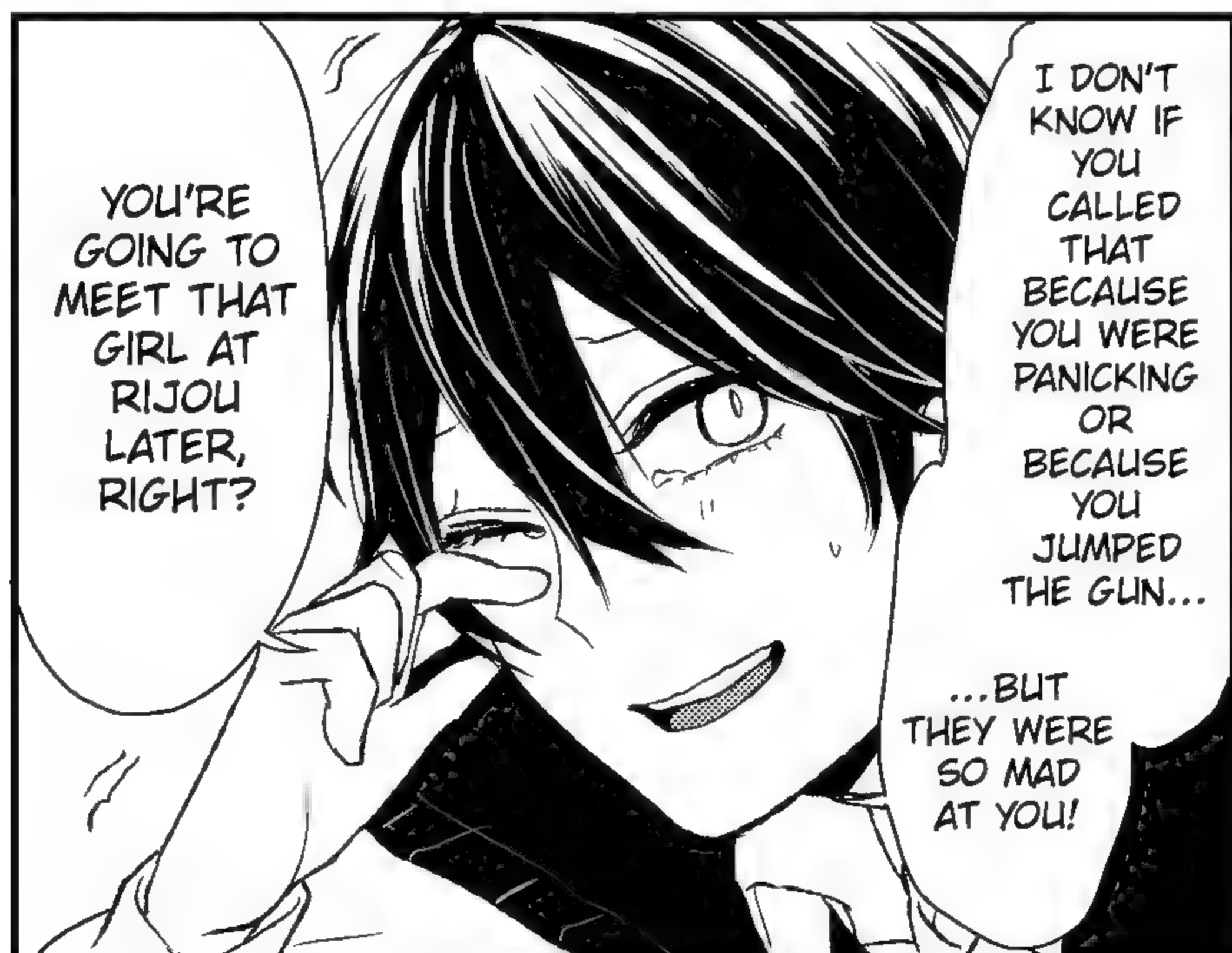








*110 IS THE EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR THE POLICE IN JAPAN.









I DON'T
KNOW
HER ALL
THAT
WELL,
EITHER,
BUT...

UM...
SHE'S
REALLY
NOT
LIKE
THAT...



...

...I'M
SURE
YOU GUYS
ARE JUST
MISUNDER-
STANDING.



SILENCE



EEK!
OKAY!

...I
DON'T
LIKE THE
WAY
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
HER!

HIS IMPRESSION
OF NISAKA

I
DON'T
KNOW
HER
WELL
EITHER,
BUT...

MAN... I WANT
TO BE NISAKA...

UGH...
I'M PATHETIC.

I BET NISAKA
WOULD HAVE SAID
SOMETHING REALLY
SNAPPY...



WHAT HAPPENED?



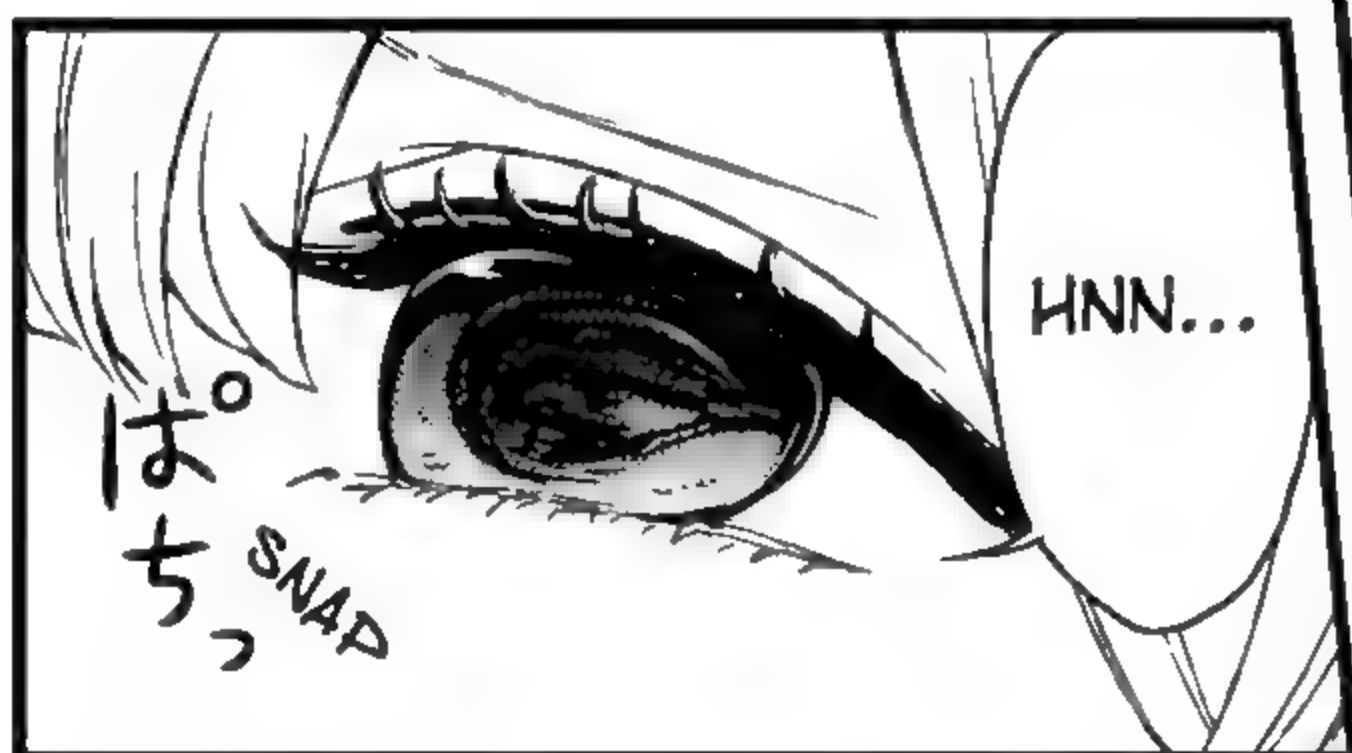
BUT ANYWAY...

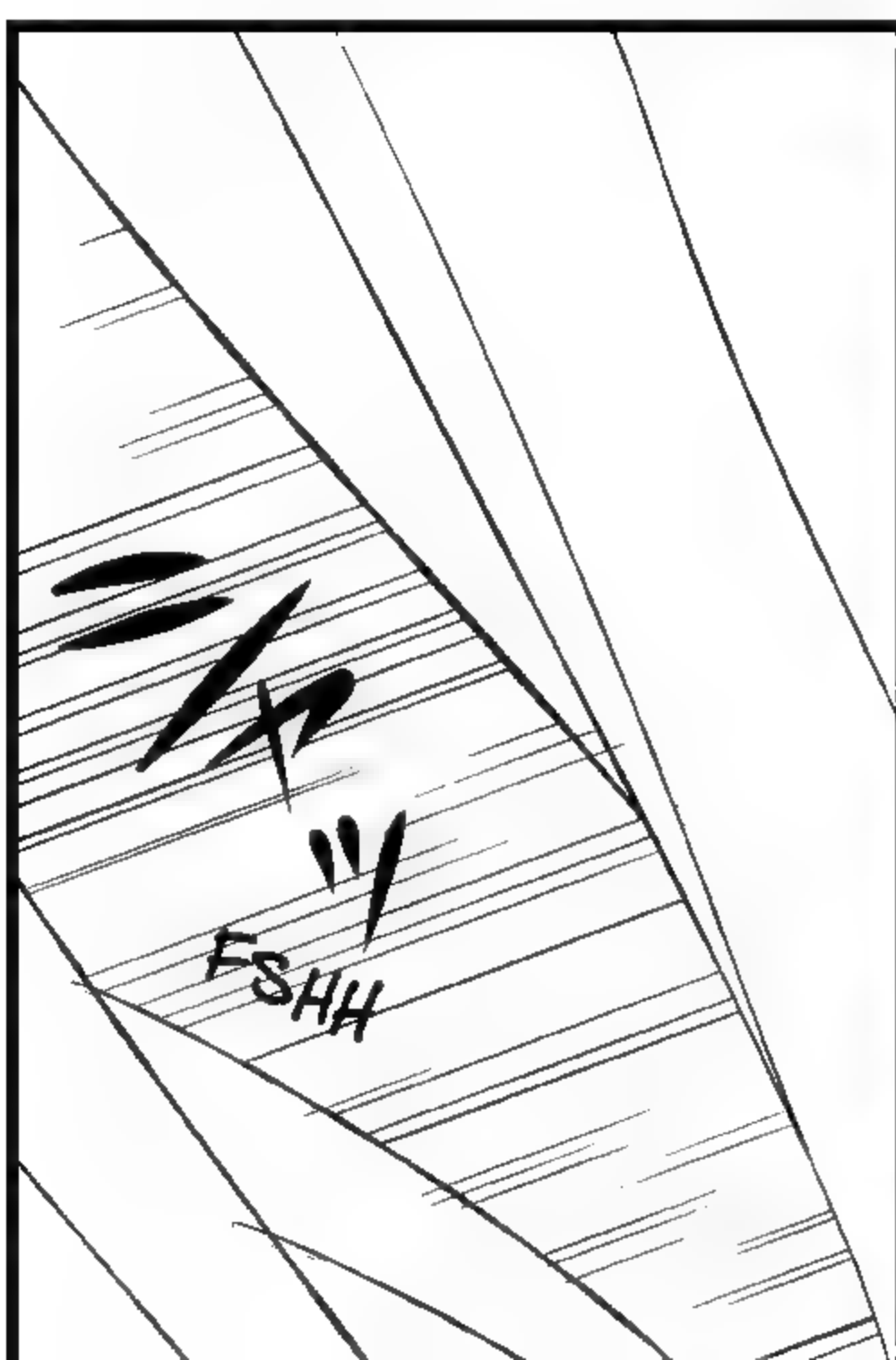
NURSE



LILINA...!









AH...

HUH?
UH...



PANT-
IES!

HEY!
PA...

WHO
TOLD
YOU?!



PANTIES
CAN'T
TALK!

BLOSH



WHO
TOLD
YOU
THAT?!

WHO...

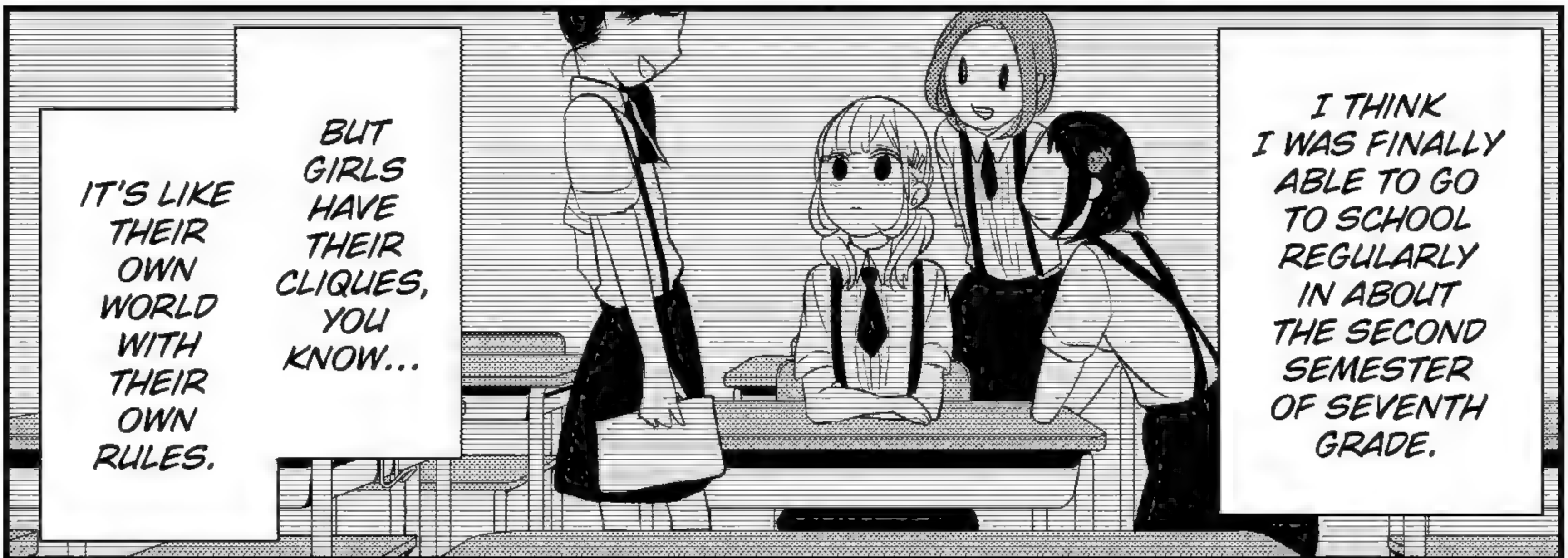
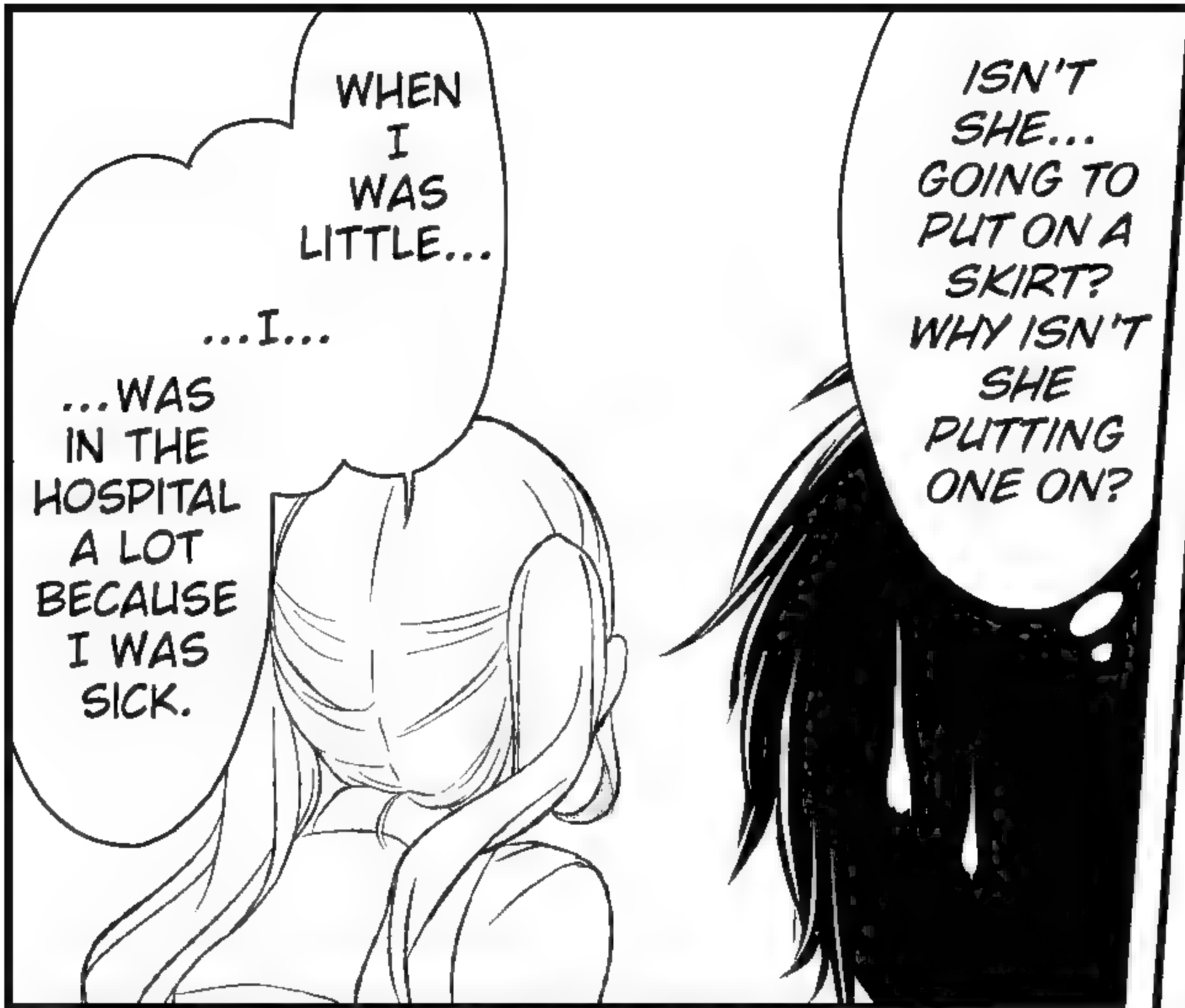


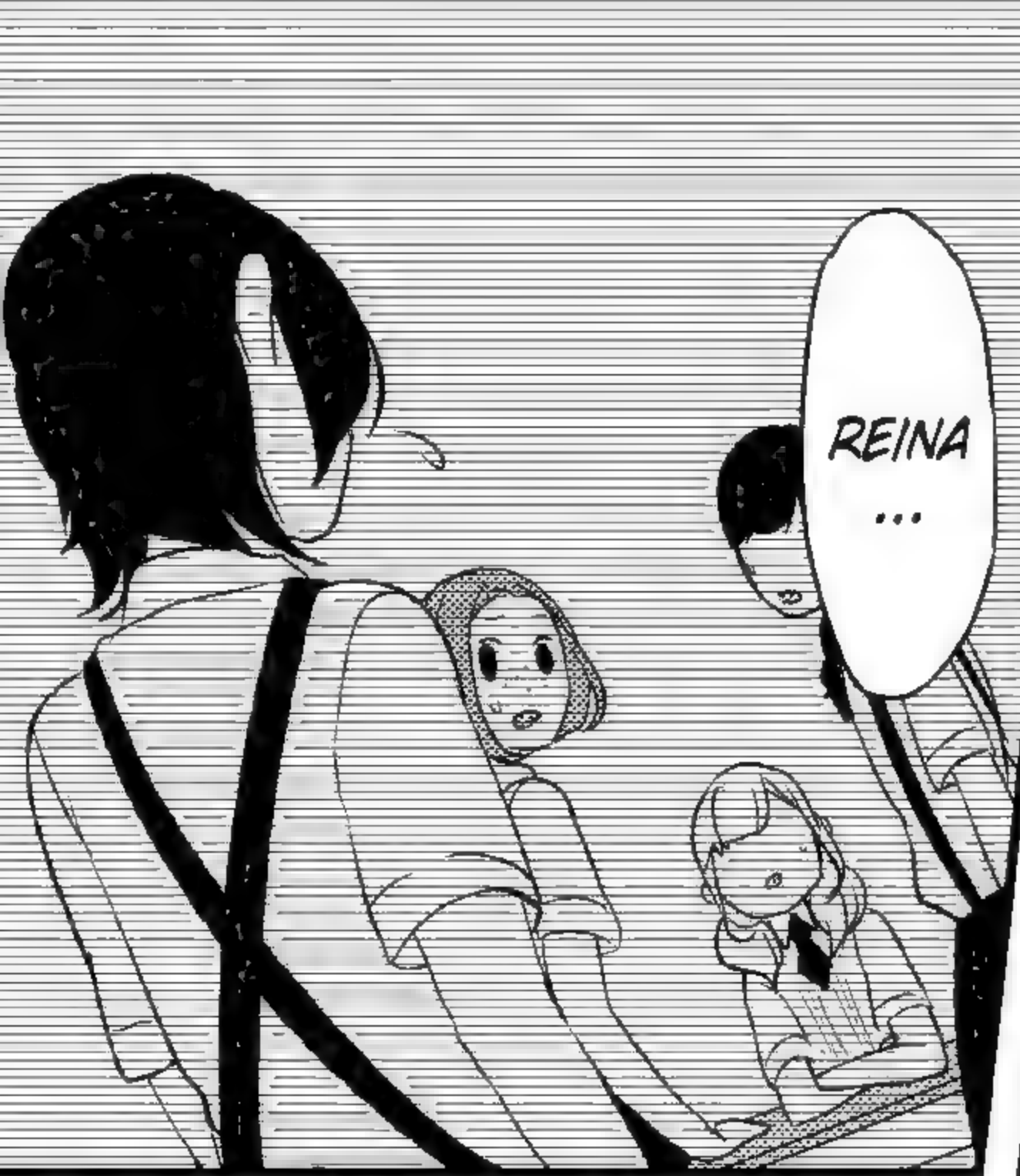
LILINA!
CALM
DOWN!

WHOSE
PANTIES?!
TELL
ME!
WHICH
PANTIES
TOLD
YOU?!

YOU JUST
HEARD IT
FROM
SOME
SECOND-
YEAR
GIRLS
WALKING
BY,
DIDN'T
YOU?!

OR
DID
YOU
REALLY
HEAR
IT
FROM
SOME
PANTIES
?!





REINA ...



OH!

...



HUH?

DO YOU HATE HER?

HUH?



I
COULDN'T
MAKE
FRIENDS.



I HATED
PEOPLE
TALKING
BEHIND
MY BACK
BECAUSE
I HAVE NO
FRIENDS...

I'M
JUST
A SORE
LOSER.

YOU
COULDN'T
USE THAT
TO HELP
YOU MAKE
FRIENDS?

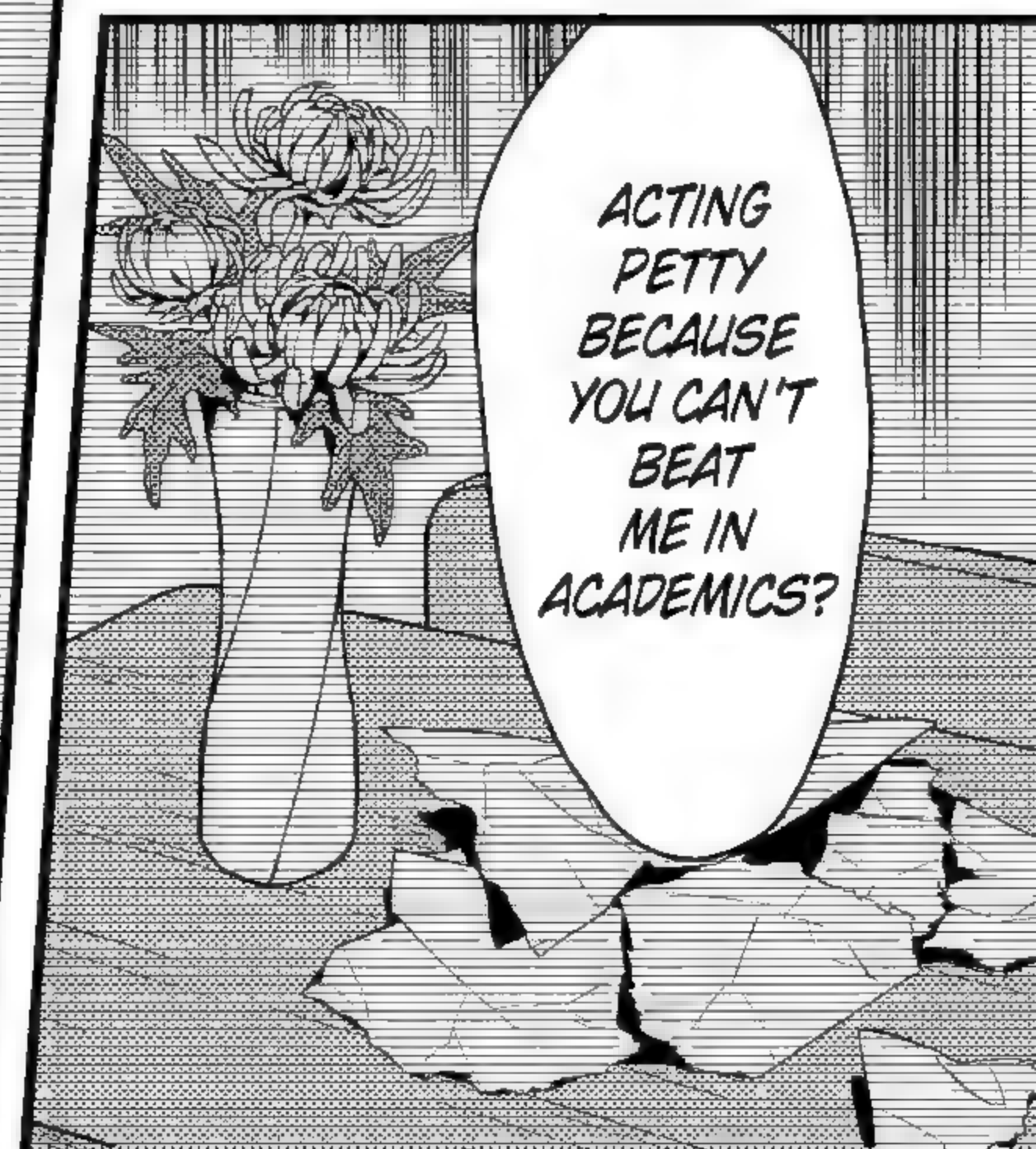
B-BUT
YOU'RE AT
THE TOP OF
YOUR CLASS,
AREN'T
YOU?



THEY'RE WORSE THAN MONKEYS.

THEY'RE TROGLODYTES.

HOW PATHETIC. GANGING UP ON ME LIKE THAT... THEY'RE JUST LIKE ANIMALS.



ACTING PETTY BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BEAT ME IN ACADEMICS?



I THINK I'M JUST A LITTLE TOO BLUNT.

IS THAT SO?

BASICALLY, YOU'RE JUST BAD AT MAKING NICE LIKE THE REST OF THE GIRLS DO?



OH! I SEE! I AGREE WITH THA...

WHAP



YOU GET IT?

AT THIS POINT, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS ...

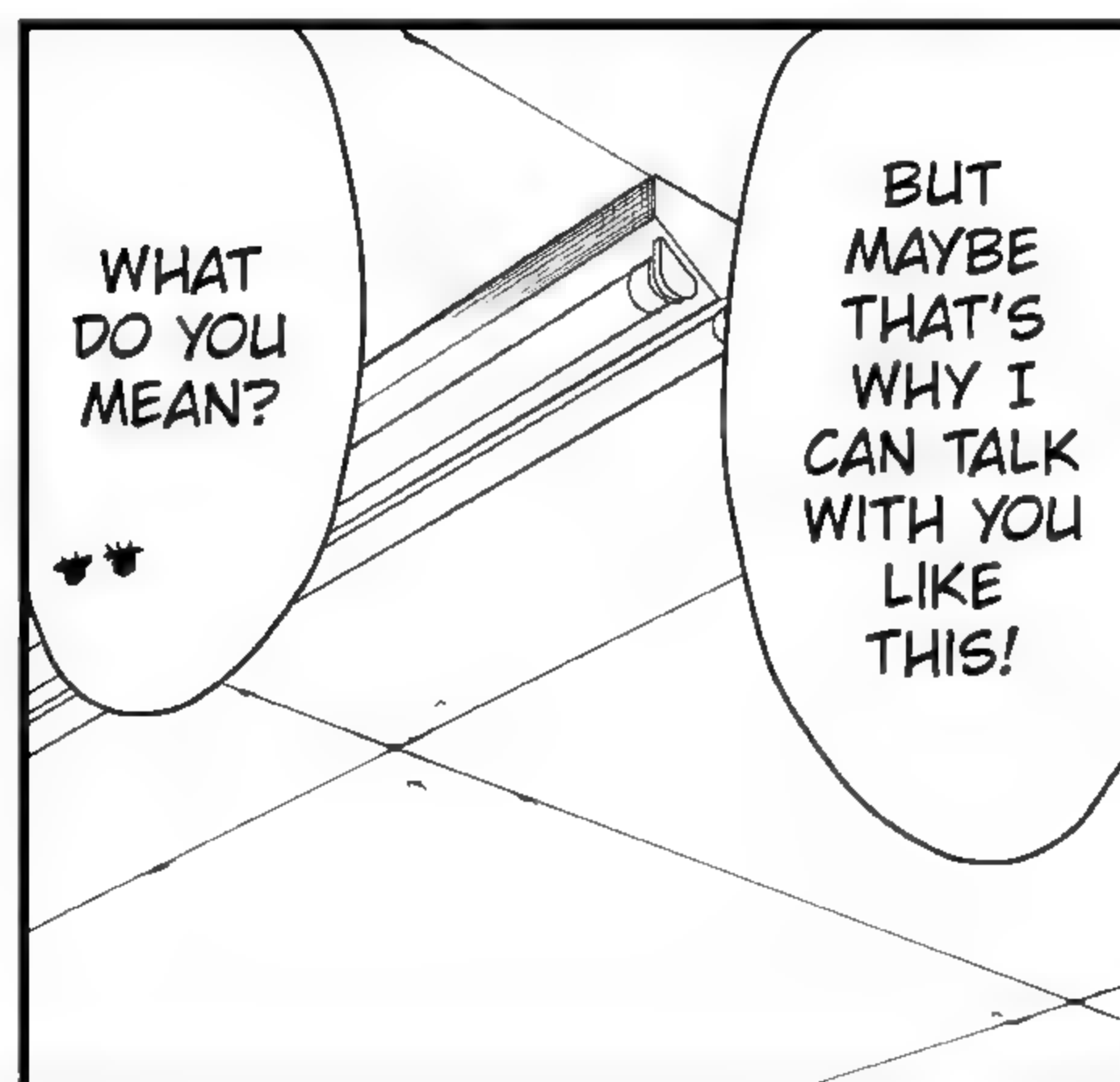
AND NOW THEY CALL ME "SNOOTY SANADA."

I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...



I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE SECRETLY LAUGHING AT ME, TOO...

I NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT GIRLS ARE THINKING, SO I'M BAD AT TALKING WITH THEM...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BUT MAYBE THAT'S WHY I CAN TALK WITH YOU LIKE THIS!



BUT YOU
GET ANGRY
RIGHT AWAY
AND SHOW
EVERY-
THING...

...WHICH
IS EASY,
FOR ME.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
EASY?!

OH, NO.
MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE SAID
THAT.

RAGE

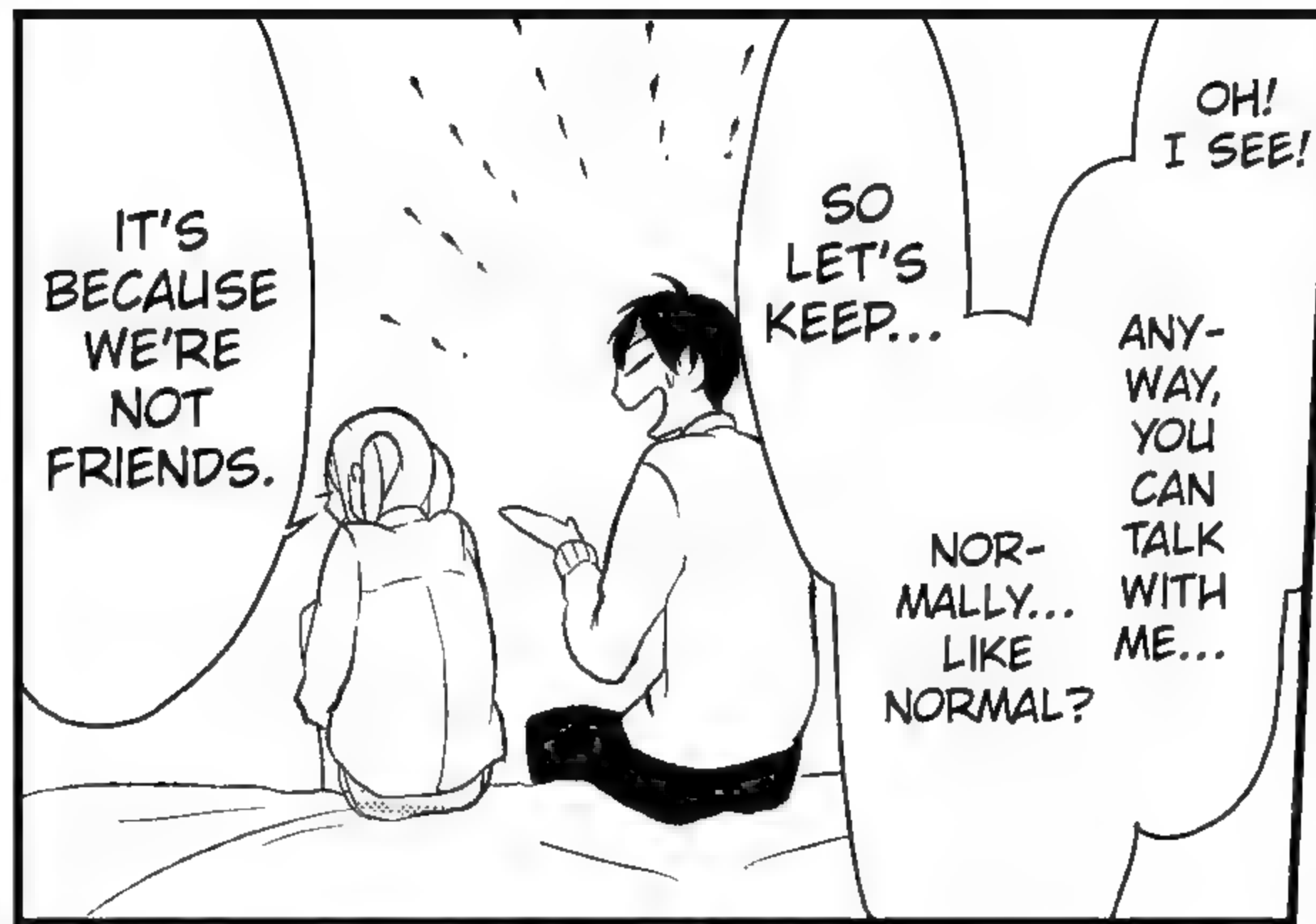


...



THAT'S
THE FIRST
TIME
ANYONE
EVER...

...SAID
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT TO
ME.





WHY?!

WHEN?!

AHH...
UHM...

HUH?!

I...
HUH?!



HOP
ふん

WELL,
WHATEVER.
LET'S
JUST
GET
OUT OF
HERE.

IT'S
GETTING
DARK.



...



YOU
JERK!

SMACK



NOT
FOR A
SECOND!

NOT
AT THE
LACE
AND
STRIPES!

NOT
AT
ALL!

TREMBLE
わなわな
TREMBLE

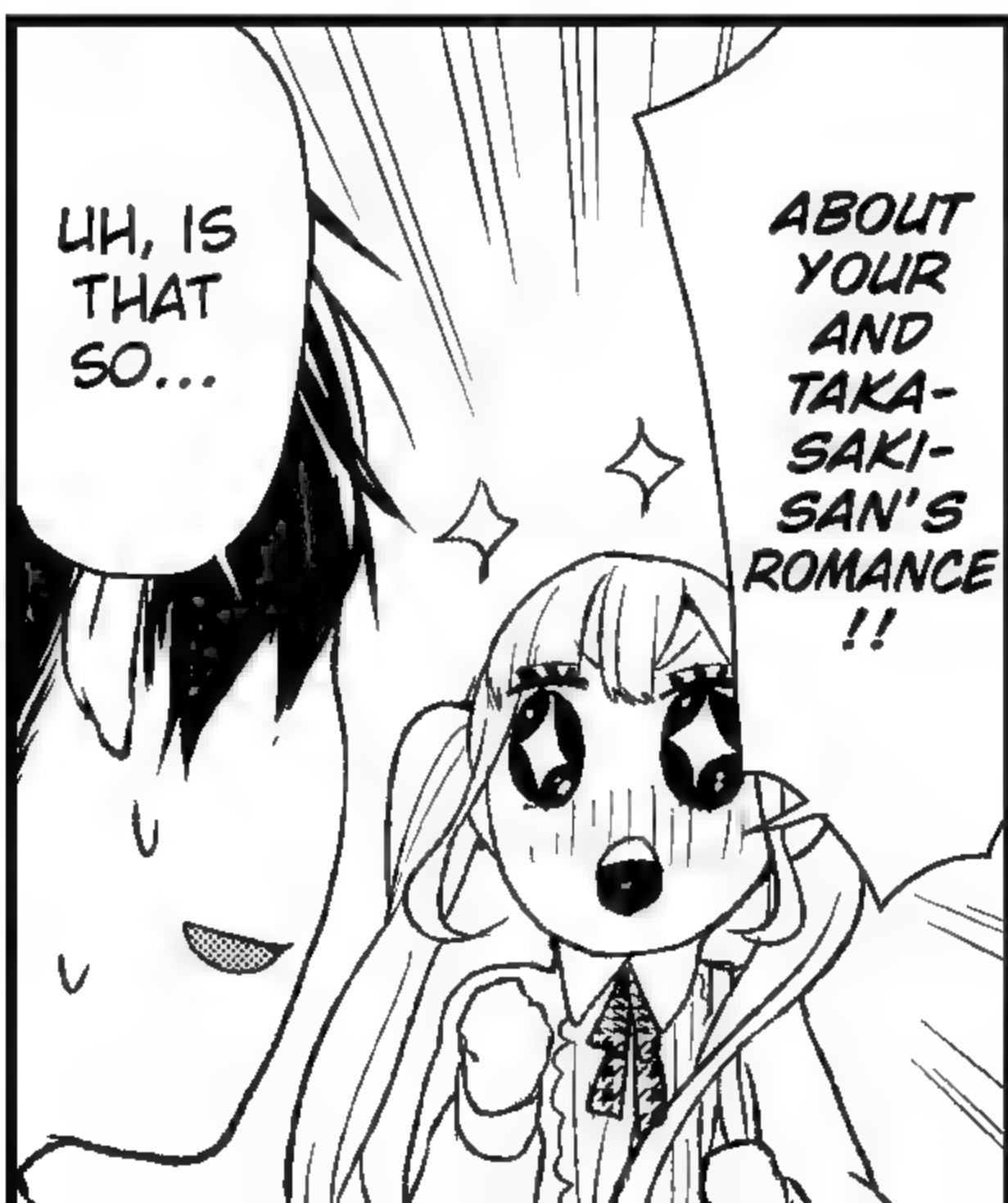


I
WASN'T
LOOKING
AT ALL!

IT'S
OKAY!

NOT
AT
ALL!

JERK





HEY!
ARE YOU
LISTENING
?

WHEN
YOU
CONFESSED
TO EACH
OTHER IN
THE PARK,
WHAT
EXACTLY
WAS IT
LIKE
WHEN...



OH...

I DIDN'T GET
TO HEAR
EVERYTHING
LAST TIME,
AND THERE'S
BEEN SOME-
THING I'VE
BEEN MEANING
TO ASK
YOU...



IT'S
TAKASAKI-
SAN...



...!



HUH
?

OH!
THE GIRL
WITH THE
BOB?

YEAH...





NICE
TO MEET
YOU,
TAKASAKI-
SAN.



I'M
YUKARI
NEJIMA'S
...

...ASSIGNED
GOVERNMENT
PARTNER.

I'M
LILINA
SANADA.



WH-WH-
WH-WH-WH-
WH-WH-WH-
L-L-L-L-LILINA
DOOOING?!



THANK
YOU FOR
WAITING!
HERE'S
YOUR
SMALL
MILK-
SHAKE.

SILENCE



IT DOESN'T
BOTHER HER
AT ALL? SHE
DOESN'T CARE
ABOUT ME AT
ALL ANYMORE?

AND THEN
THERE'S LILINA...!



もくもく
NOM

...
GOVERN-
MENT
PARTNER.

...
ASSIGNED
...



BUT
I DON'T
LIKE
HIM AT
ALL...

HE IS MY
ASSIGNED
PARTNER
...



WHY DID SHE
EVEN BOTHER
WHEN SHE'S SO
TERRIBLE AT
COMMUNICATING?

OH, NO!

SHE'S
AT A
TOTAL
DISAD-
VANTAGE
HERE!



AND
WHAT I
WANTED
TO ASK
YOU IS...
UM...

THE
REASON
I INVITED
YOU HERE
IS...
ER...

UM...
UM...

NO,
I DON'T!
I DISLIKE
HIM SO
MUCH IT'S
BECOME A
PROBLEM!

HUH?!

YOU
DON'T
LIKE
HIM?



WHAT
DO
YOU...

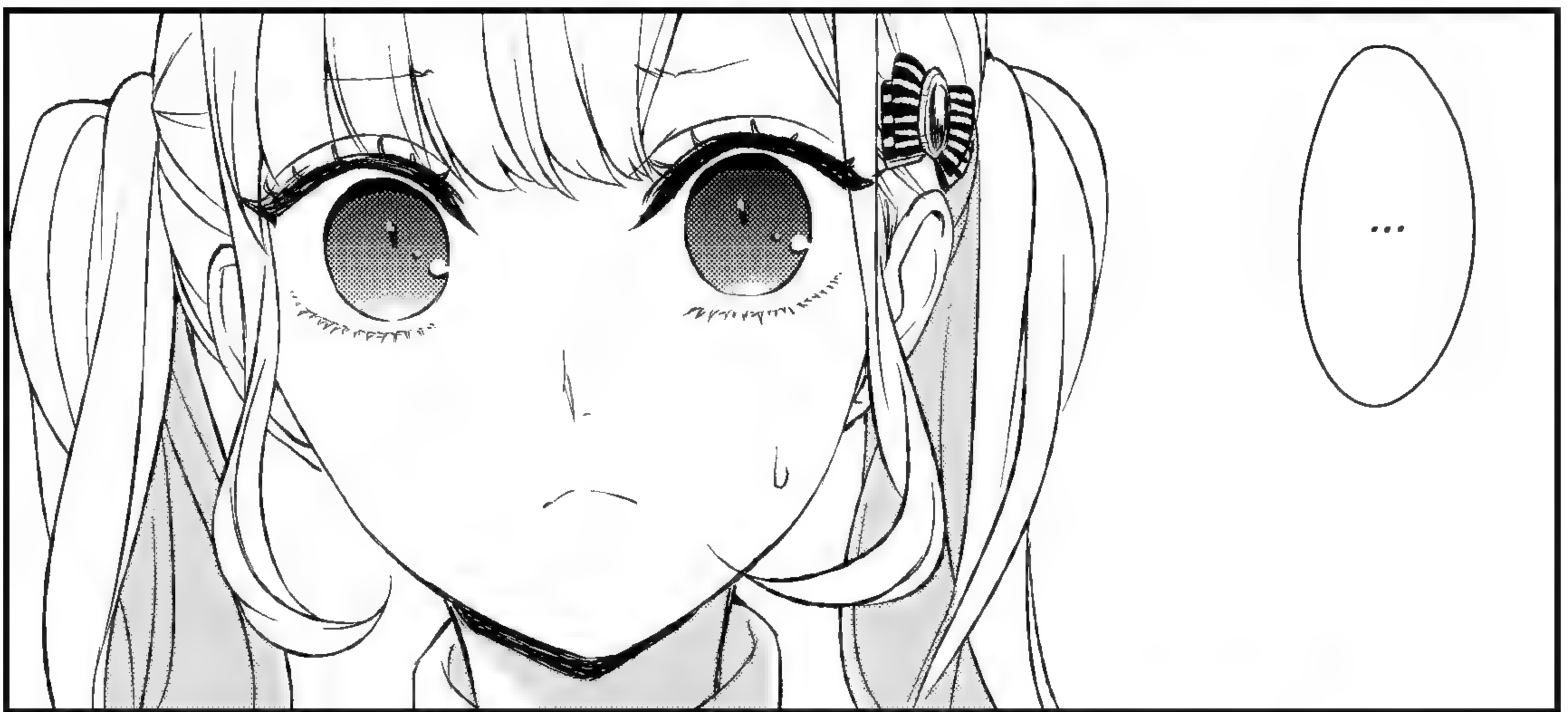
...THINK
OF
HIM
NOW?!

SO!
WHAT
WAS YOUR
PROBLEM
WITH
YUKARI
NEJIMA?!



WHAT A
FASTBALL!
SHE JUST
BLURTED
PLUS... IT RIGHT
OUT!

SHE
SAID
IT!





IT'S
HUGE!!



OH!
THANK
YOU...

THANKS
FOR
WAITING!
KEYHOLE
KOFUN
BURGER!



...!

GULP



WHERE...

WHERE
DO I
START?

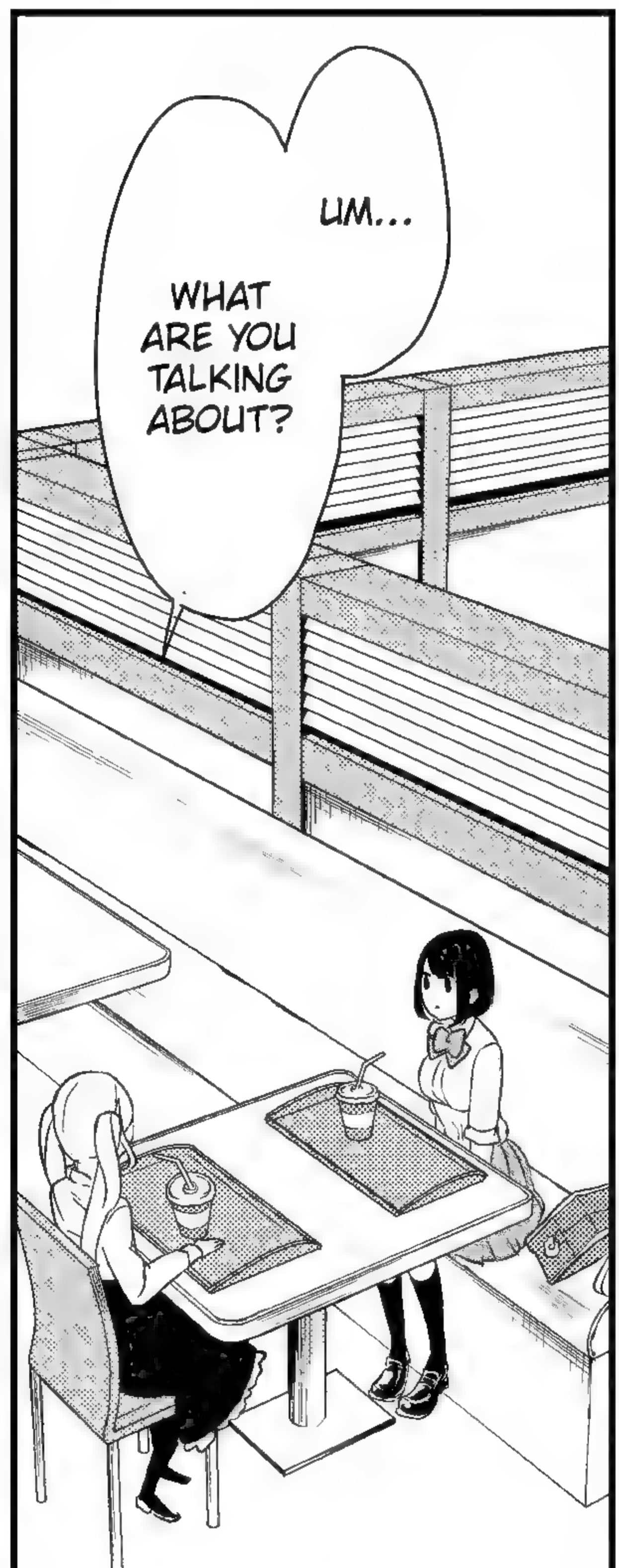


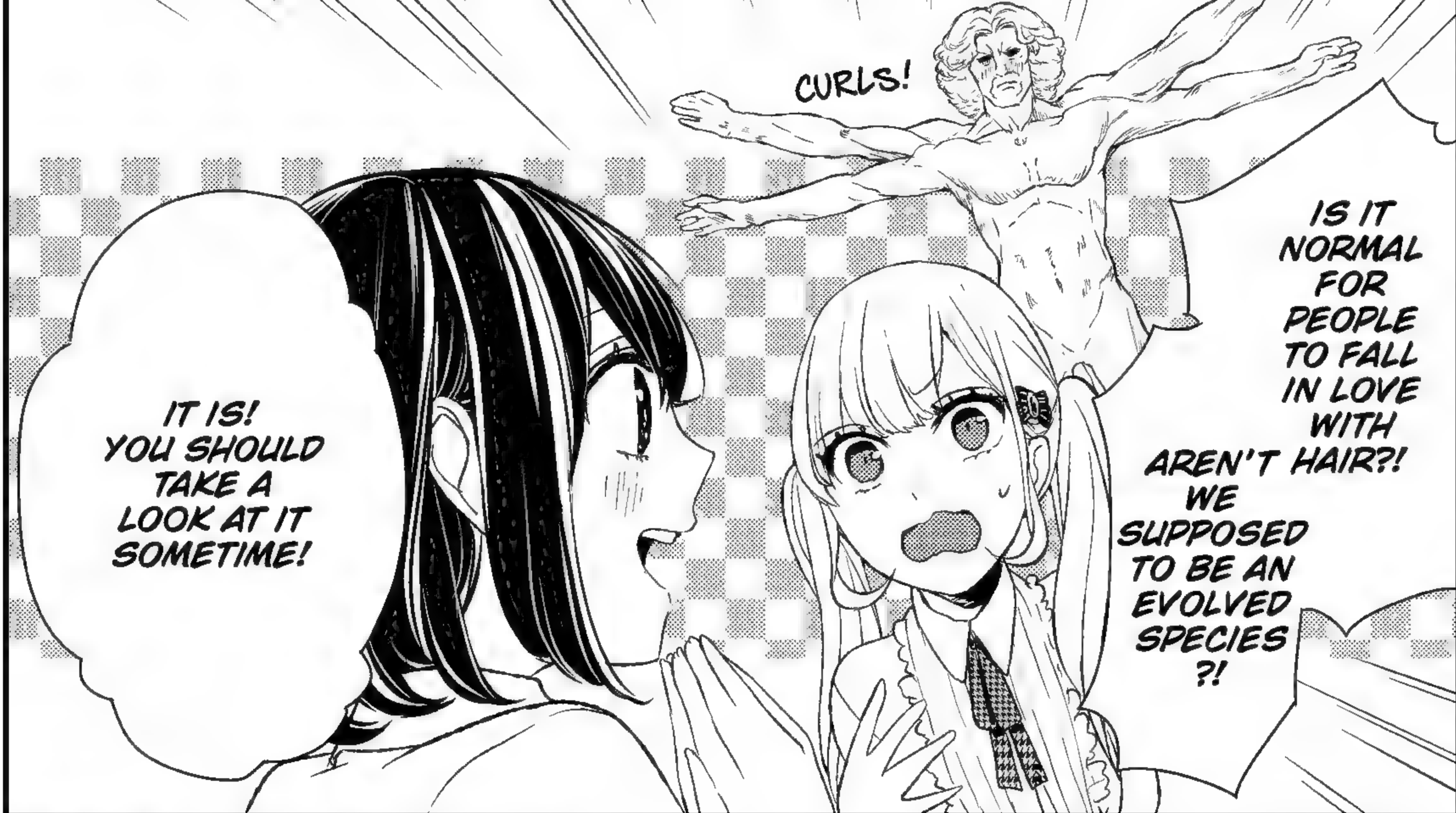
...!



YOU
KNOW...







IT IS!
YOU SHOULD
TAKE A
LOOK AT IT
SOMETIME!

IS IT
NORMAL
FOR
PEOPLE
TO FALL
IN LOVE
WITH
AREN'T HAIR?!
WE
SUPPOSED
TO BE AN
EVOLVED
SPECIES
?!

CURLS!



O-OH!
THAT'S
WHAT
TAKASAKI-
SAN LIKES
ABOUT
ME?!

MUNCH
ムン
ムン
MUNCH



THERE'S
MORE
?!

BACK IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
WHEN HE
WAS ON
CHALK-
BOARD
DUTY...

AND,
WELL
THIS IS
A REALLY
FANATICAL
DETAIL,
BUT...

INCH
い

TWITCH
ヒク



HUH?

BUT I'M
KIND OF
HAPPY.



WHAT I
WANT TO
ASK IS
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH...

OKAY,
I GET
WHY
YOU
LIKE
HIM.

ACTUALLY,
I DON'T
GET IT,
BUT
THAT'S
OKAY.



NOW SHE'S
GONNA ASK
ABOUT
WHAT WAS
WRONG
WITH ME...
SIGH...

WELL,
BUT...



...THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
EVER
TALKED
ABOUT
HIM LIKE
THIS...

I'VE
ALWAYS
KEPT IT
HIDDEN,
SO...

IT'S
REALLY
FUN!



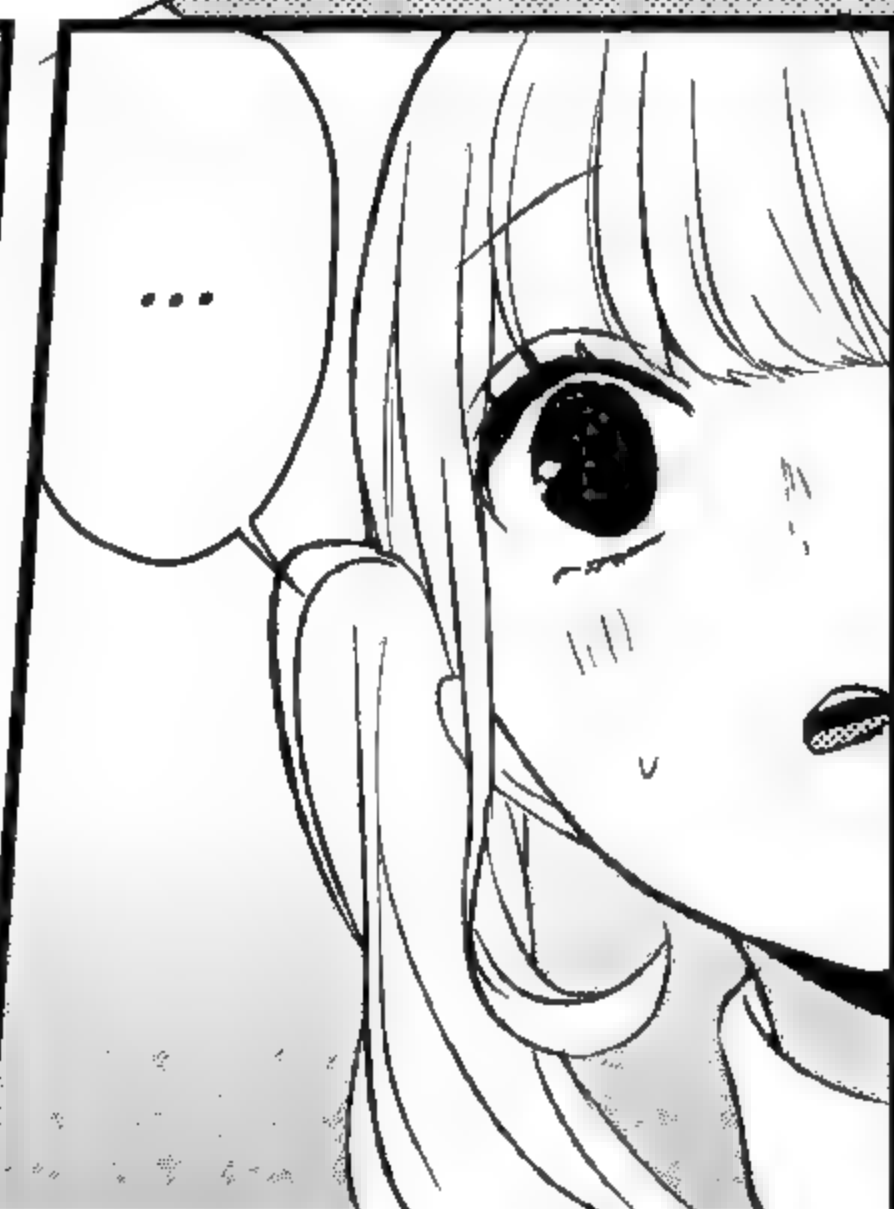
I...
DON'T
...!

HUH?
WHAT?



WHAT
DO YOU
LIKE
ABOUT
NEJIMA-
KUN?

HEY!
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
LILINA-
CHAN?



...



THAT
HE'S
NICE...

EVEN
WHEN
HE'S
NERVOUS?

TH—



...



BUT THEIR SIZES WERE TOTALLY DIFFERENT, SO THE TEACHER FOUND OUT RIGHT AWAY.
THE TEACHER THOUGHT NEJIMA-KUN'S CLOTHING WAS FROM TAKEDA-KUN'S HUGE LITTLE BROTHER!



SO THEN, WHEN TAKEDA-KUN FORGOT HIS GYM CLOTHES, NEJIMA-KUN LENT HIM HIS JERSEY...





FALLING
IN LOVE
WITH
SOME-
ONE...

...MUST BE
WONDERFUL.

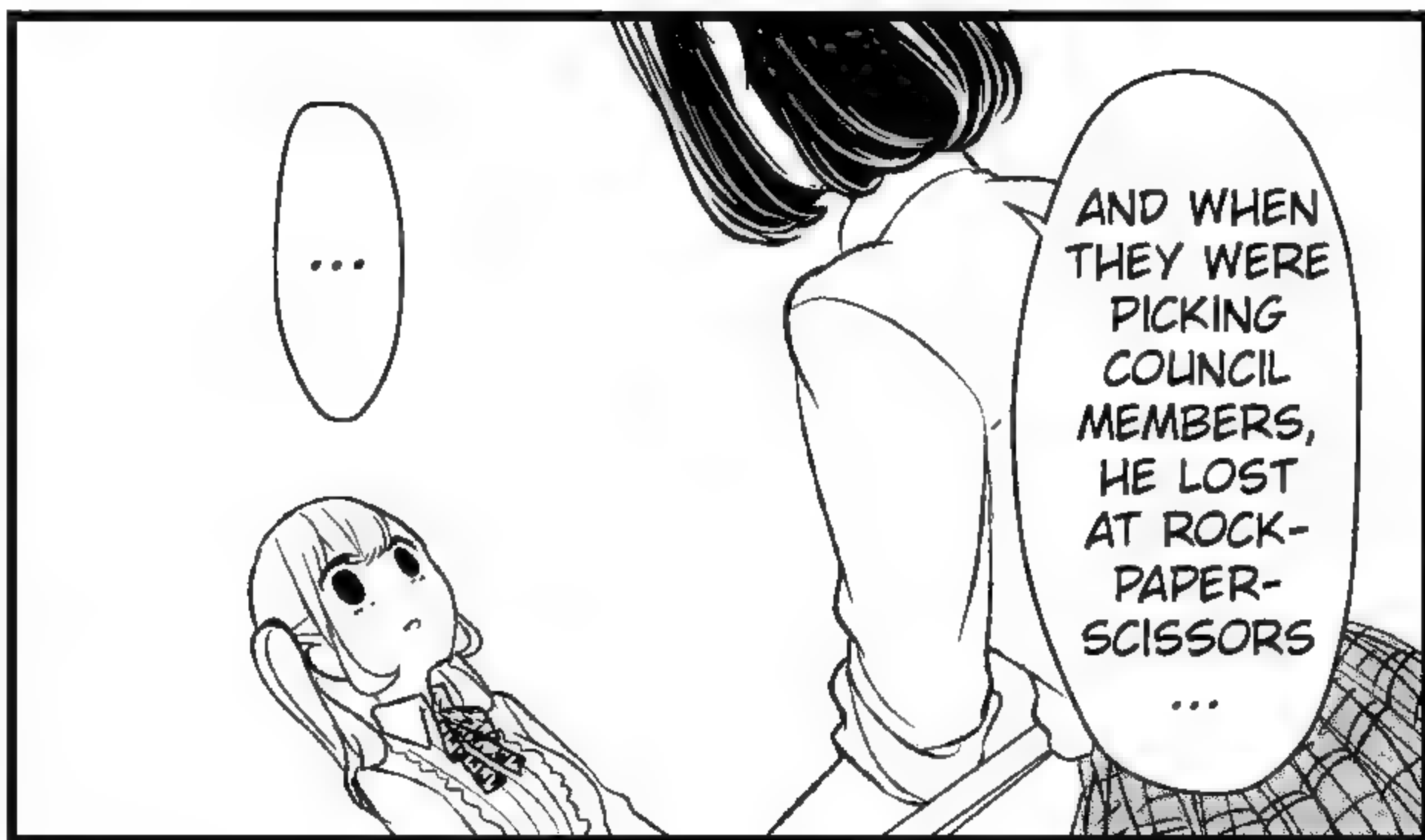


...THINKING
OF ME,
TOO!



AND I
GUESS...
SHE'S
BEEN...

AND AT
THE HIGH
SCHOOL
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY
...



AND WHEN
THEY WERE
PICKING
COUNCIL
MEMBERS,
HE LOST
AT ROCK-
PAPER-
SCISSORS
...

...





OH!
IT'S ONE
OF THOSE
MACHINES
THAT MAKES
YOUR EYES
BIGGER AND
YOUR LEGS
LONGER.*

I'VE HEARD
OF THOSE...



...

SORRY
FOR
KEEPING
YOU
OUT
SO
LATE!
WHERE
DO YOU
LIVE?
DO YOU
TAKE THE
TRAIN?



WOW,
IT'S
TOTALLY
DARK
OUT!

*KNOWN AS PURIKURA, THESE PHOTOBOOTHS ARE UBIQUITOUS IN JAPAN. THEY USE MANY DIGITAL EFFECTS TO CHANGE YOUR APPEARANCE.



...

I
SOMETIMES
DO THIS
WITH MY
FRIENDS.
IT'S
PRETTY
FUN!

BUT...
I'VE
NEVER
DONE IT
BEFORE.

HUH?



WANT
TO TAKE
SOME
PICTURES
?



HUH?
OKAY...

I'LL
TEXT YOU
THE
PICTURES,
SO GIVE
ME YOUR
NUMBER!



IT
REALLY
DOES
MAKE
THEM
BIGGER...

IT'S A
LITTLE
SCARY.

YOU'RE
SO CUTE,
LILINA-CHAN!
YOU LOOK
LIKE A
DOLL!



WERE
YOU
BORED?

I HAD
A LOT
OF FUN
TALKING
TO YOU
TODAY...



SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

SHAKE



HUH?

HEY, WE
SHOULD
HANG OUT
AGAIN
SOMETIME,
IF YOU
WANT.



LILINA?



THERE'S
NOTHING
AROUND
HERE, SO
I HAD A
HARD
TIME
HIDING!

SIGH...



THANKS!

I'LL
TEXT
YOU
LATER!

...





AND YOU
DON'T
GET THIS
FULL
FEELING
IN YOUR
CHEST
AFTER
YOU KISS
HER,
RIGHT?!

RIGHT
?!



NO, I
DON'T.

I MEAN,
DO YOU
FEEL
LIKE YOU
WANT TO
KISS
HER AND
STUFF?

DO
I?

YOU'VE
GOT
THE
WRONG
IDEA!

NO,
NO,
NO,
NO!



SNUFFLE
~
~
~

HUH?!

MY
HEART'S
POUNDING
LIKE
CRAZY.

DOES
THIS MEAN
THAT I'M
IN LOVE
WITH
TAKASAKI-
SAN?

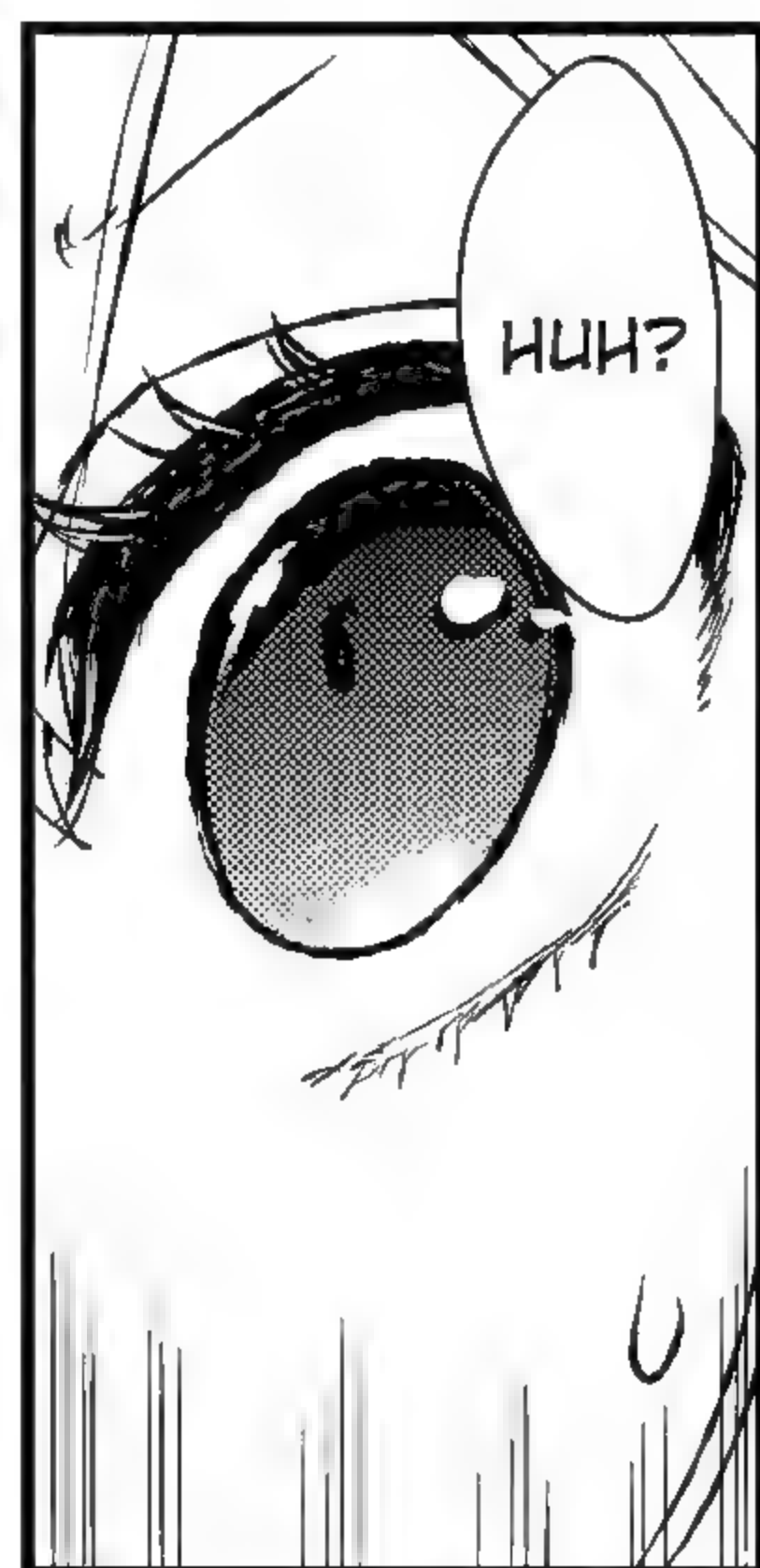


UH...

HAVE
YOU
KISSED
TAKASAKI-
SAN?



HMM?



HUH?



I
HAVE
AN
IDEA.

HUH?



BUT IT
WAS
BEFORE
I GOT MY
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE!

IT WAS
BEFORE
THAT!

PANIC
~
~
~



IT WAS
ACTUALLY
MORE
OF AN
ACCIDENT...

UHHHH...
UM,
W-WELL,
LIKE...

...FIVE
YEARS'
WORTH OF
OUR PENT-UP
FEELINGS
EXPLODED...





BUT
STILL,
TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN...

...AND
WE
EVEN
KISSED.

WE
CON-
FESSED
OUR
LOVE
TO ONE
ANOTHER
...



IT'S BEEN
A WEEK
SINCE I
GOT MY
GOVERNMENT
NOTICE.

Chapter 4: The Kiss of a Lie



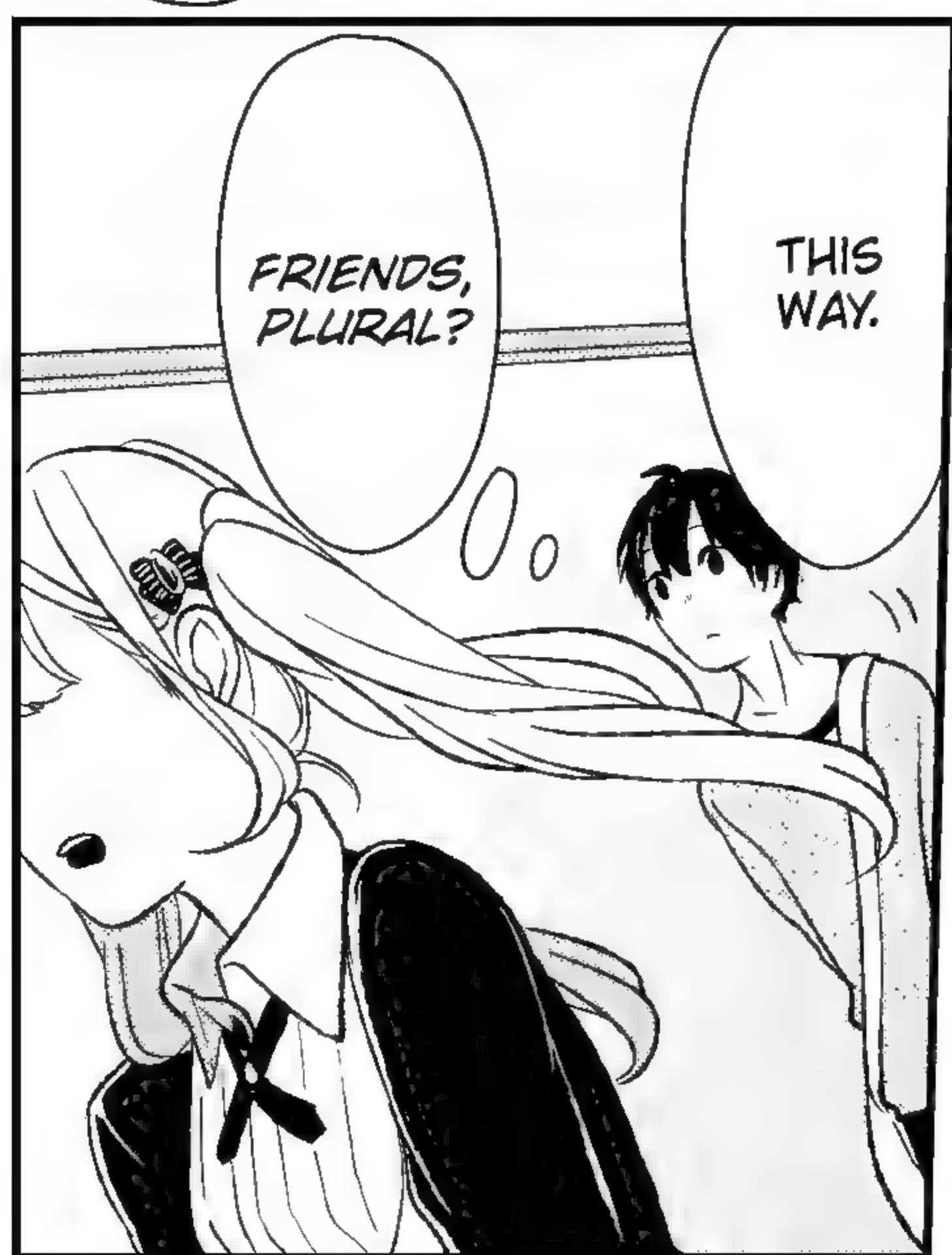
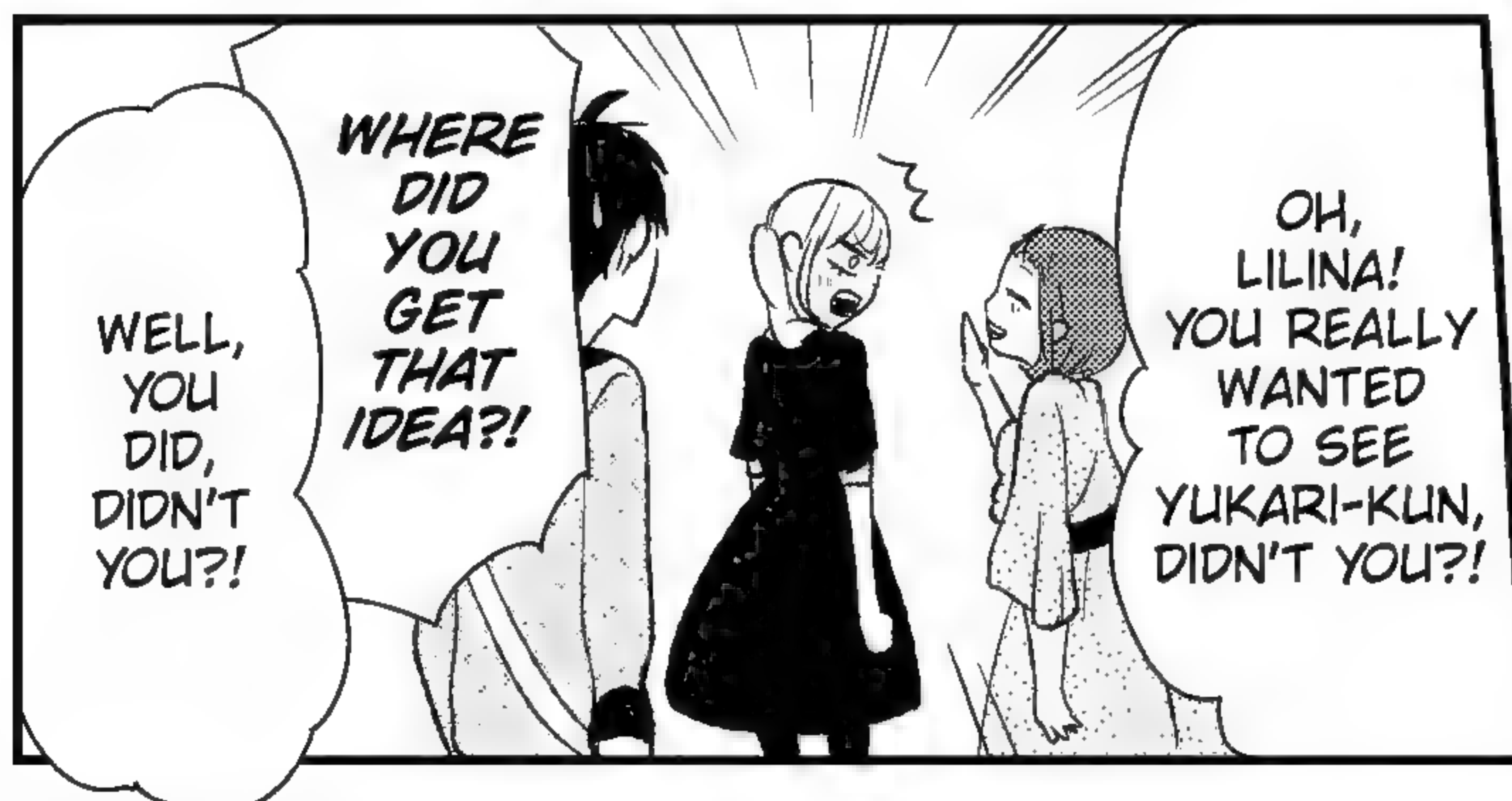
...WAS
NOT A
PART
OF MY
LIFE.



NOT
UNTIL
TODAY...



PING PONG





SORRY
TO MAKE
YOU
WAIT,
MISAKI!

HUH?

OH!

HUH?!



...

BUT...
WHAT DO
I DO?
HOW
SHOULD
I ACT?

OH!
DID
LILINA
INVITE
HER?

TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN?!

WHY
IS SHE
HERE?!



SORRY,
LILI-
CHAN...

I
HAVE
TO
G...







HUH?

YOU'RE
LEAVING?



LILINA,
YOU'RE
OKAY WITH
THAT TOO,
RIGHT?

IT'S OKAY,
TAKASAKI-
SAN...
I'LL
LEAVE.



OKAY,
LILI-
CHAN.

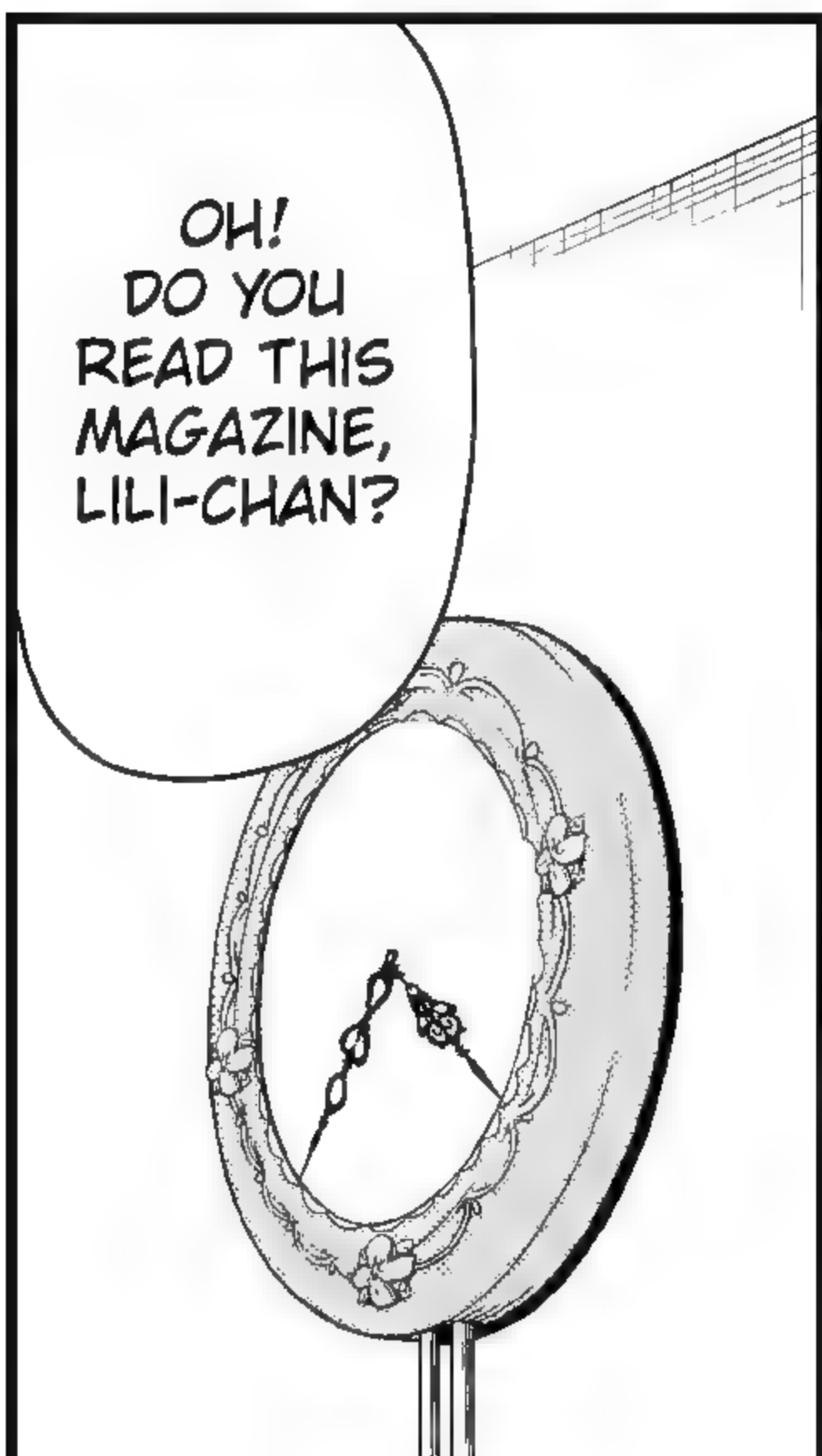
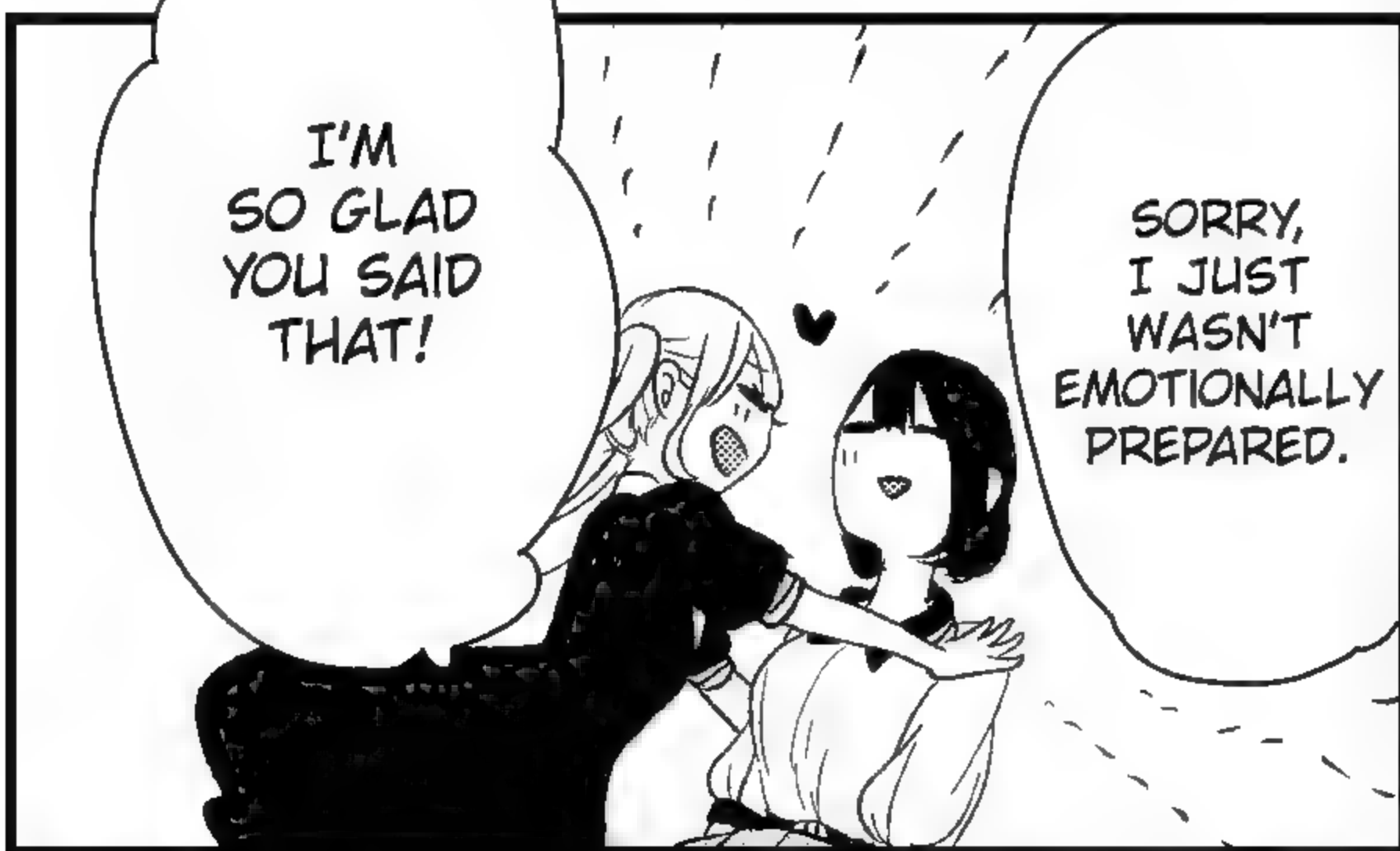


...

W-
WELL,
YOU
COULD,
BUT...

WE'RE
ALL
HERE...

HUH?
I-I
CAN'T?







HEY!
WAIT...

WHY DO
WE HAVE
TO DO
THAT?!

SHE SAID THAT
BEFORE, RIGHT
WHEN WE SAID
GOODBYE THE
OTHER DAY...

SHE WAS
SERIOUS?!



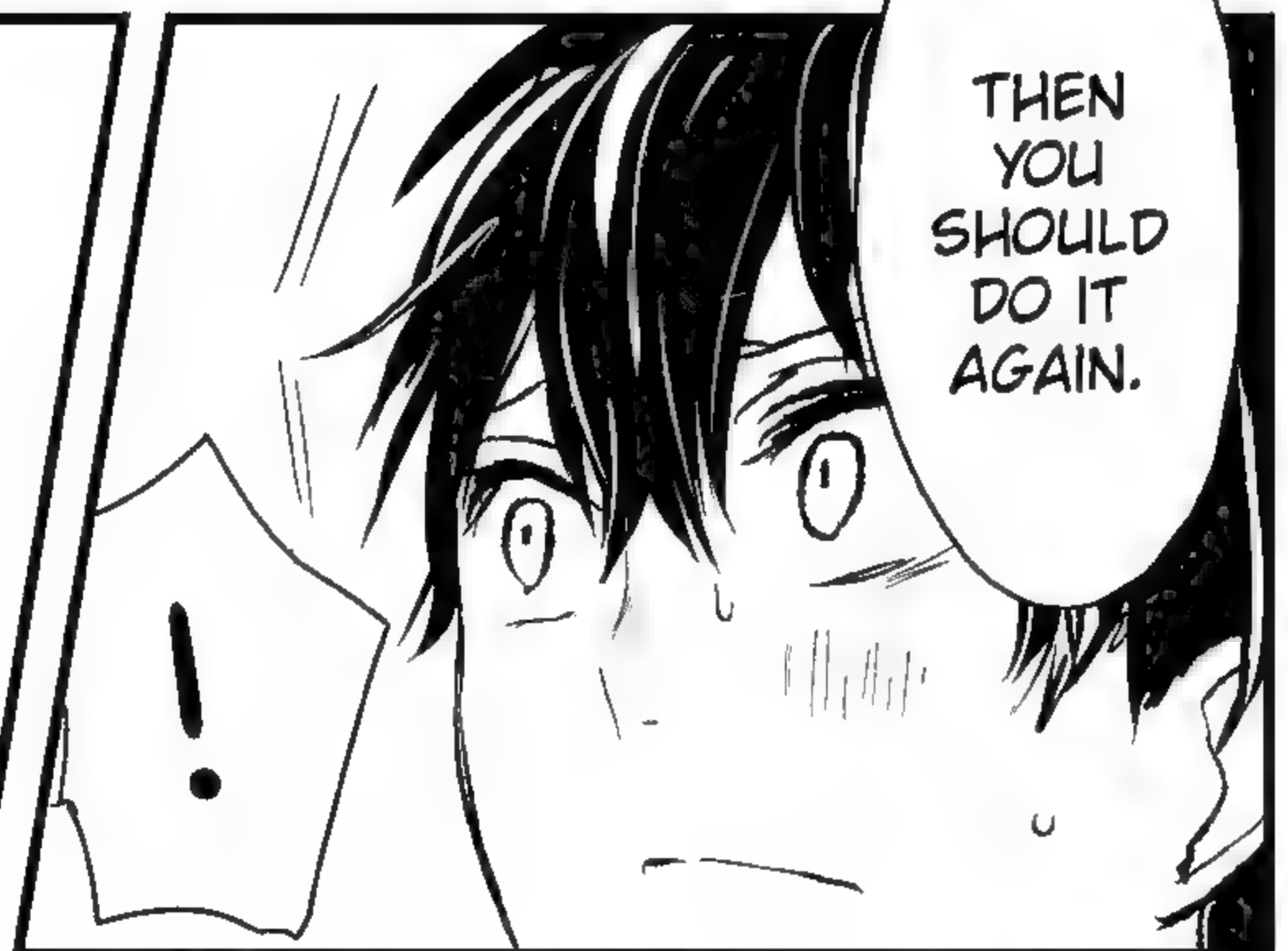
WHAT
?!



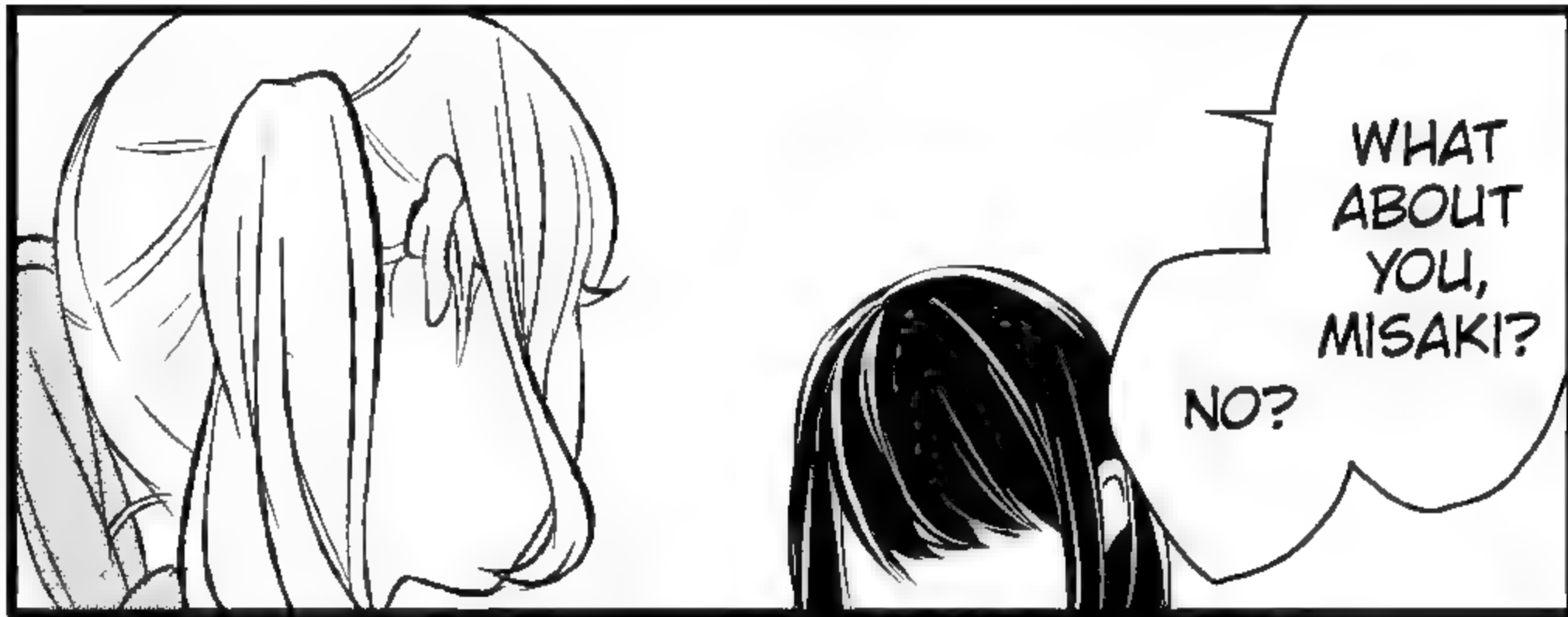
YOU
DID IT
BEFORE,
RIGHT?

STARE

し
ゝ



THEN
YOU
SHOULD
DO IT
AGAIN.





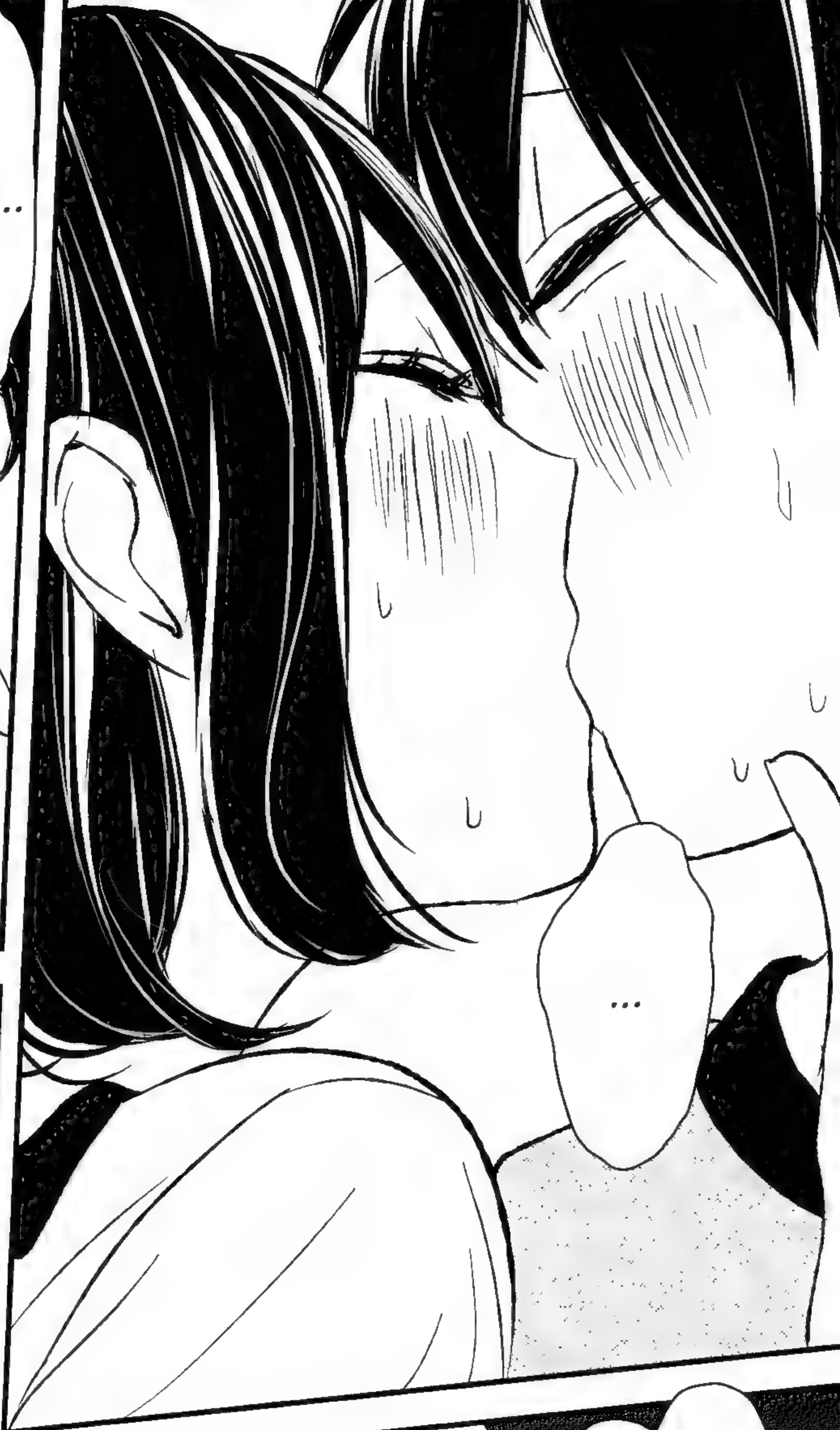
LET'S
DO IT.

LET'S
KISS.











Y-
YEAH...

OH...

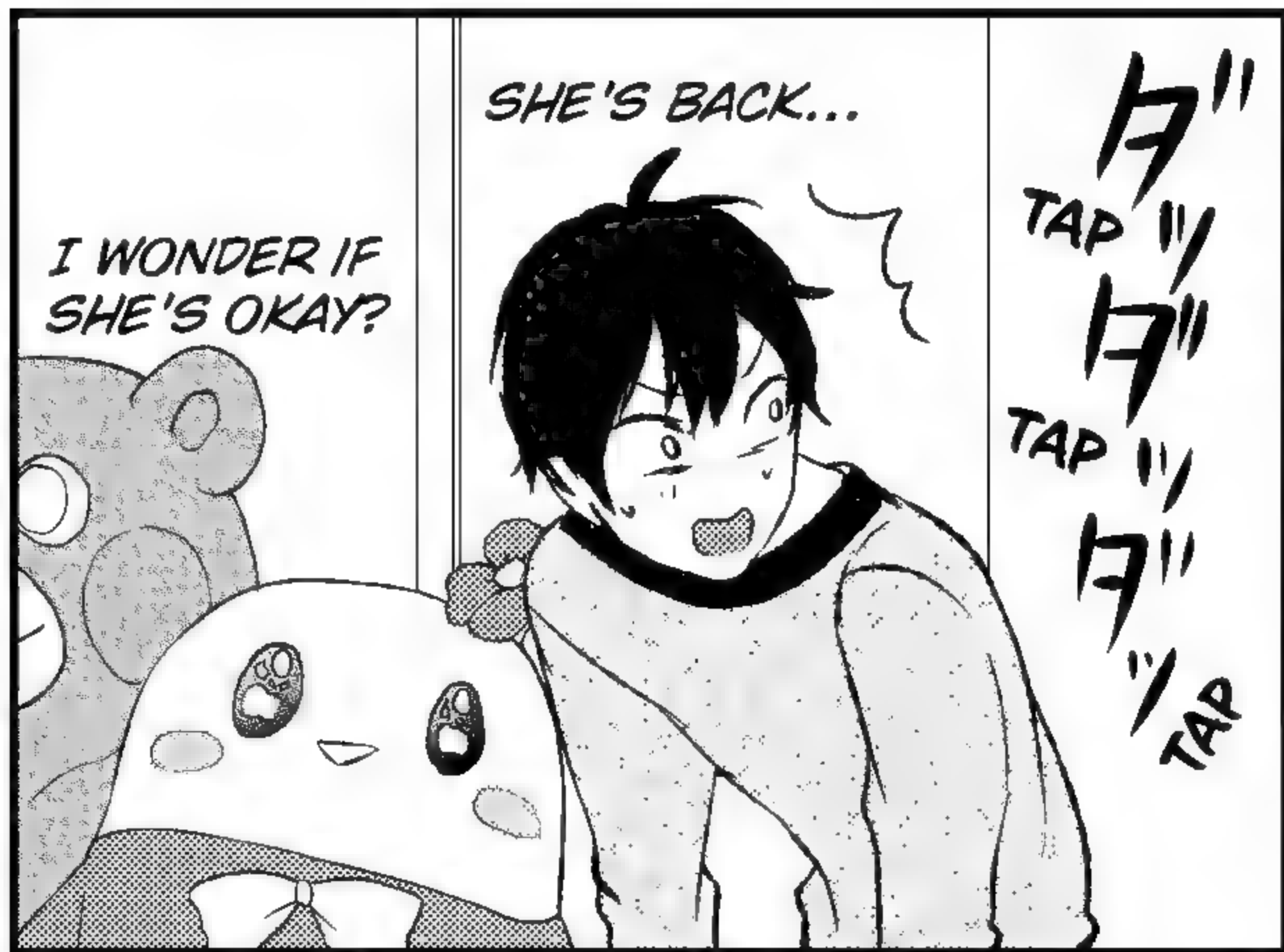
HUH?

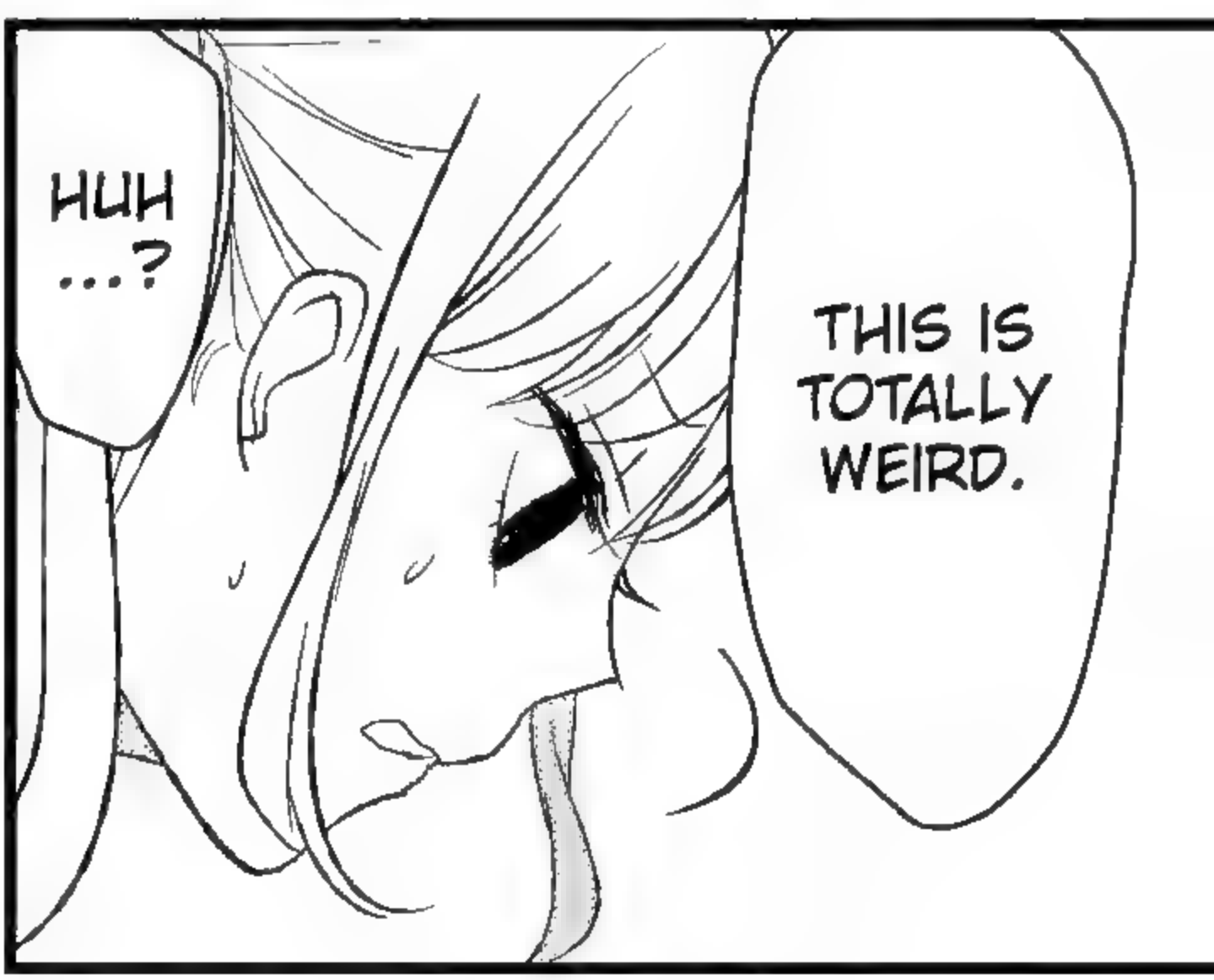
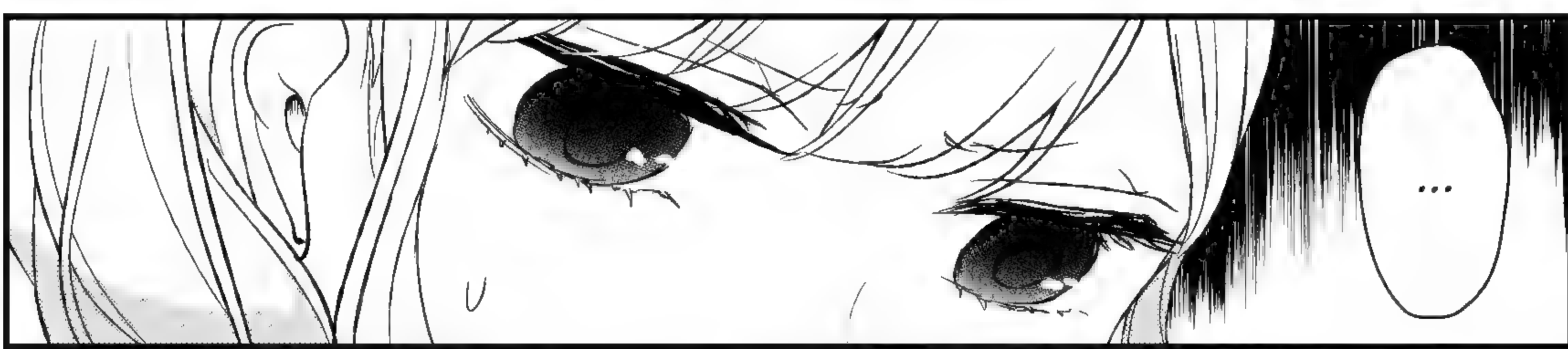
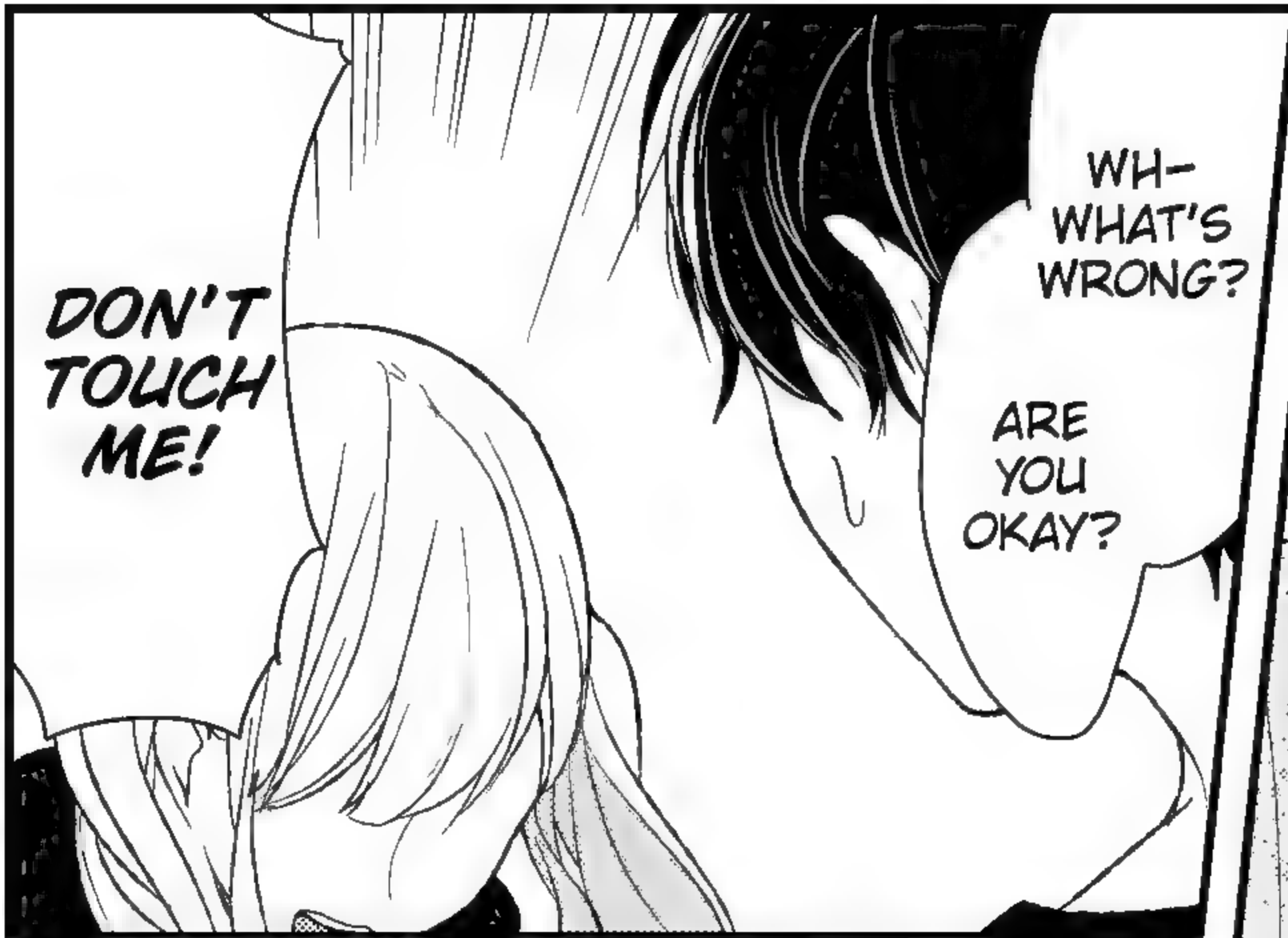
THAT
LOOK
ON
HER
FACE...!













**YOU
HAVE
TO!**

**ONCE
A
DAY!**

**KISS
TAKA-
SAKI-
SAN!**



**IT'S BEEN
A WEEK
SINCE WE
GOT OUR
GOVERNMENT
NOTICES.**

HUH?



**...OR IS
IT JUST
BEGINNING?**

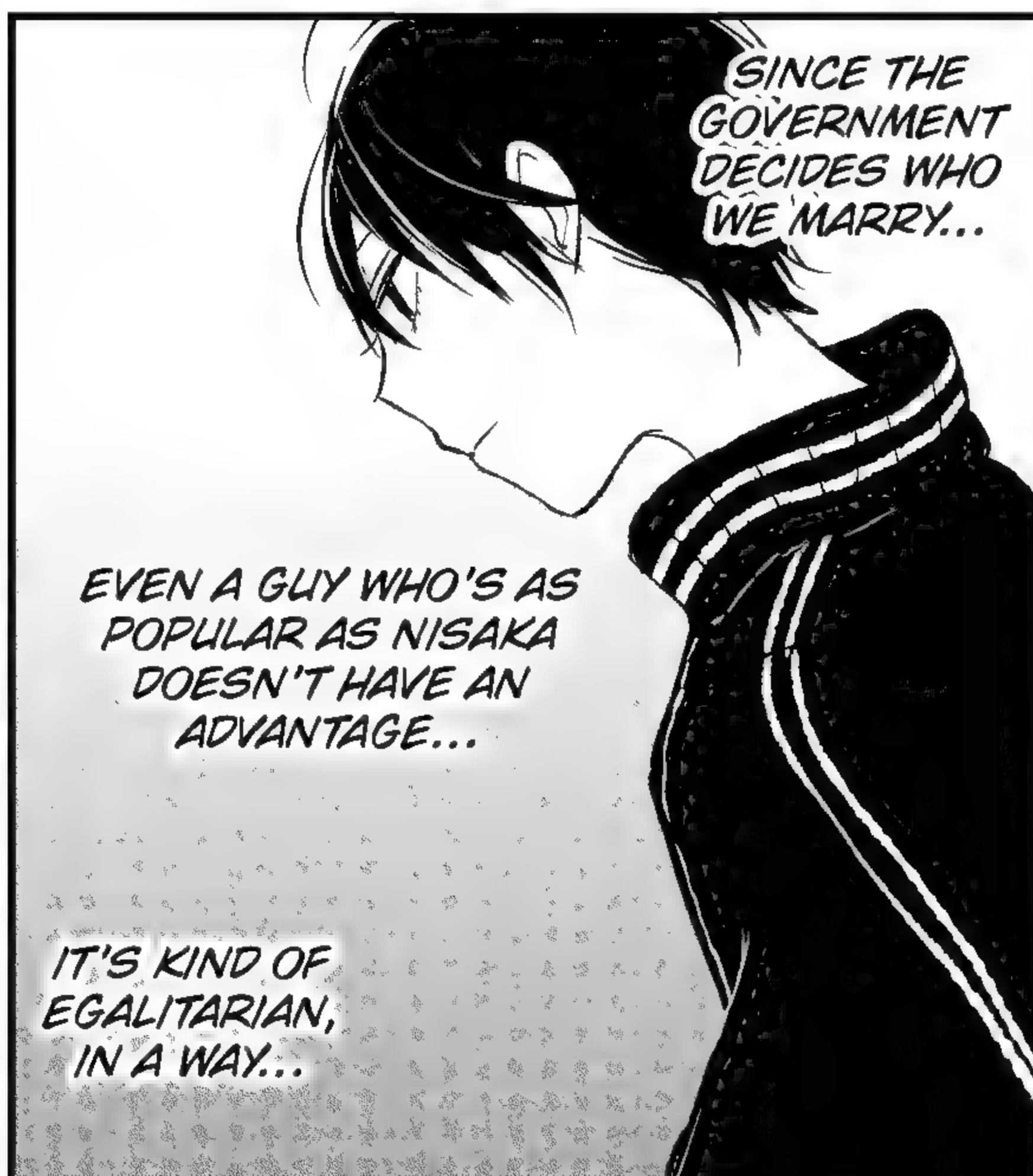
**IS MY
LOVE
LIFE
OVER...**



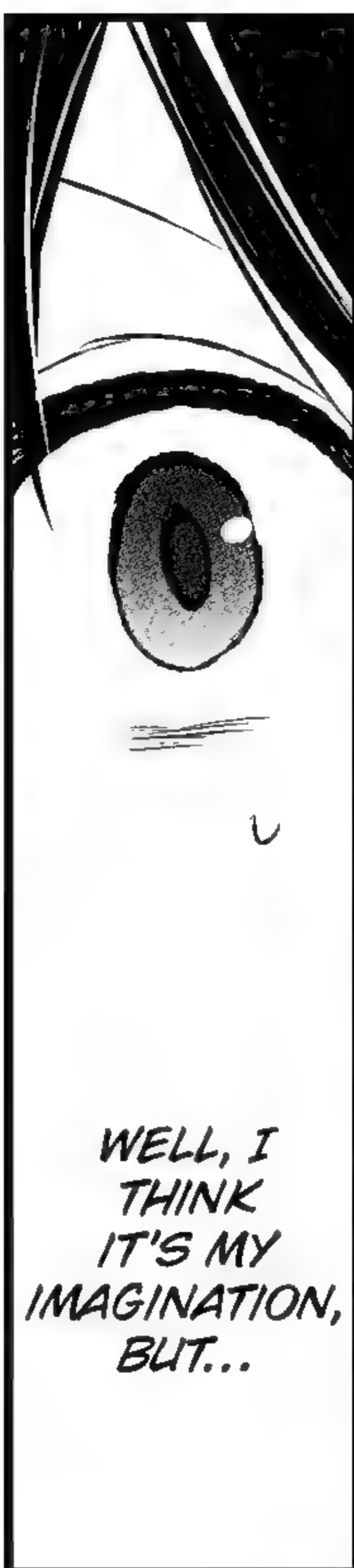
HAVING
GYM IN
FIFTH
PERIOD
IS PRETTY
ROUGH
...

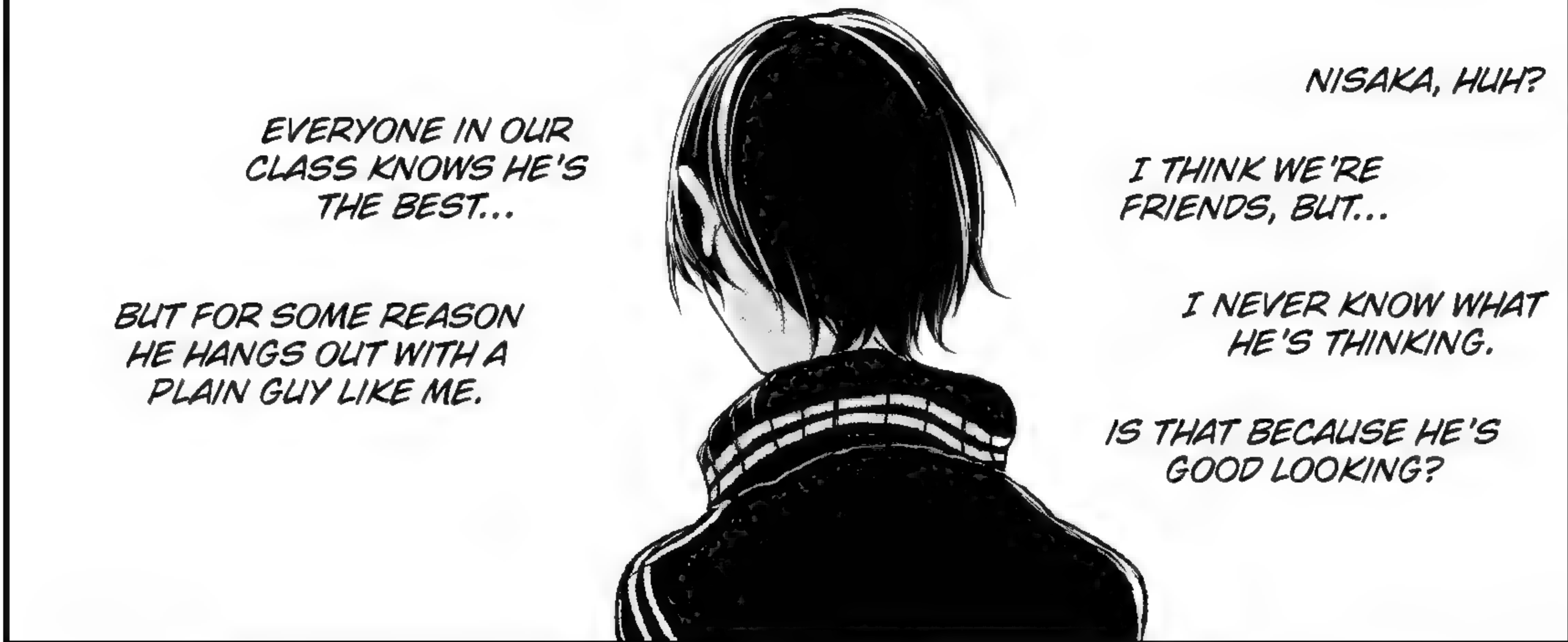
SO
HOT!

UGH!
I HATE
EXERCISING
AFTER
LUNCH!









EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS KNOWS HE'S THE BEST...

BUT FOR SOME REASON HE HANGS OUT WITH A PLAIN GUY LIKE ME.

NISAKA, HUH?

I THINK WE'RE FRIENDS, BUT...

I NEVER KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING.

IS THAT BECAUSE HE'S GOOD LOOKING?



YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THE CLASS-ROOM, NEJI?

HMM... BUT IT WAS SO LONG AGO, IT MIGHT SEEM WEIRD.



HMM? I'M GOING, THEN.

OH! I THOUGHT I'D WAIT FOR NISAKA.

OKAY.



SHOULD I JUST... ASK HIM STRAIGHT UP?

WELL, BUT... WHAT?

LIKE, "WHY WERE YOU TALKING TO TAKASAKI-SAN THAT ONE TIME?"



NEJIMA-KUN.

TUP



AH! OH, NO! GOT-TA GO!

DING

DONG

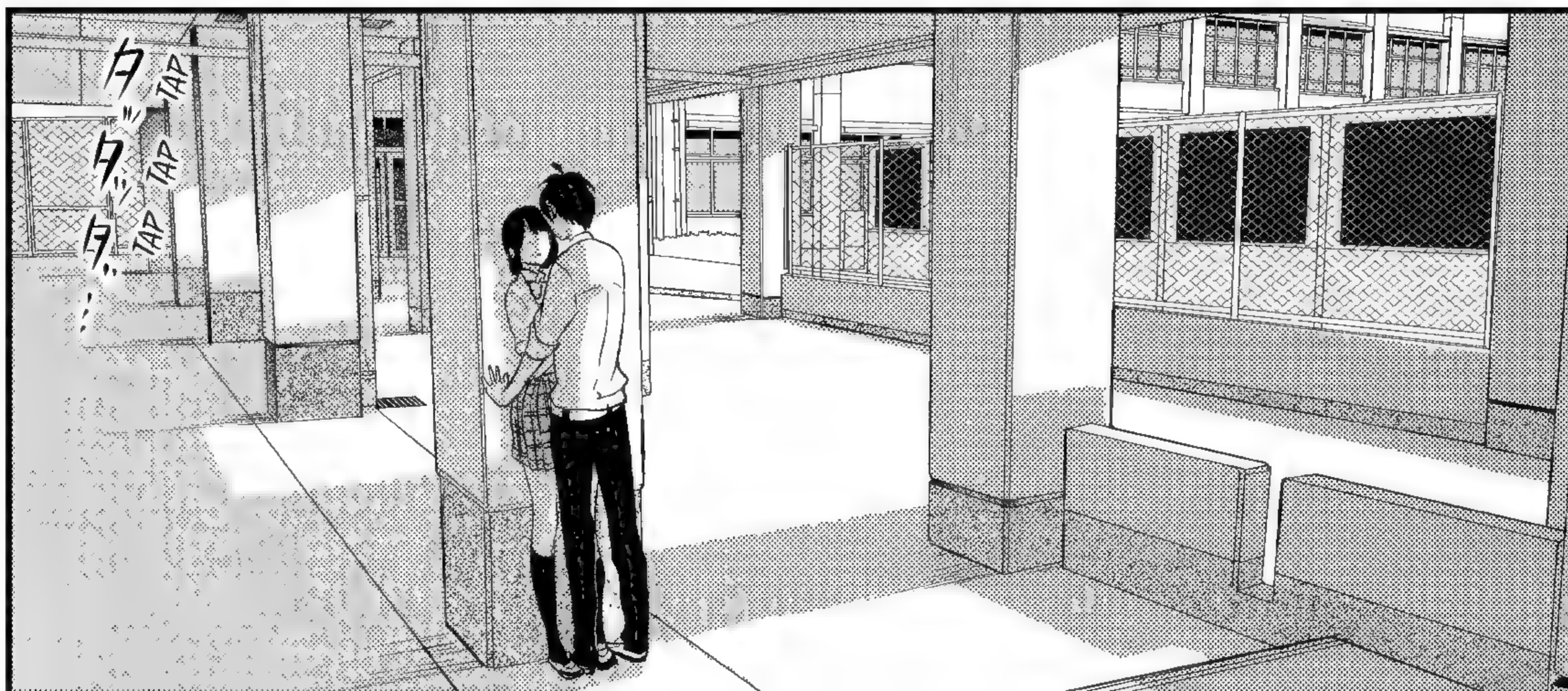
BONG



HE'S TAKING FOREVER...









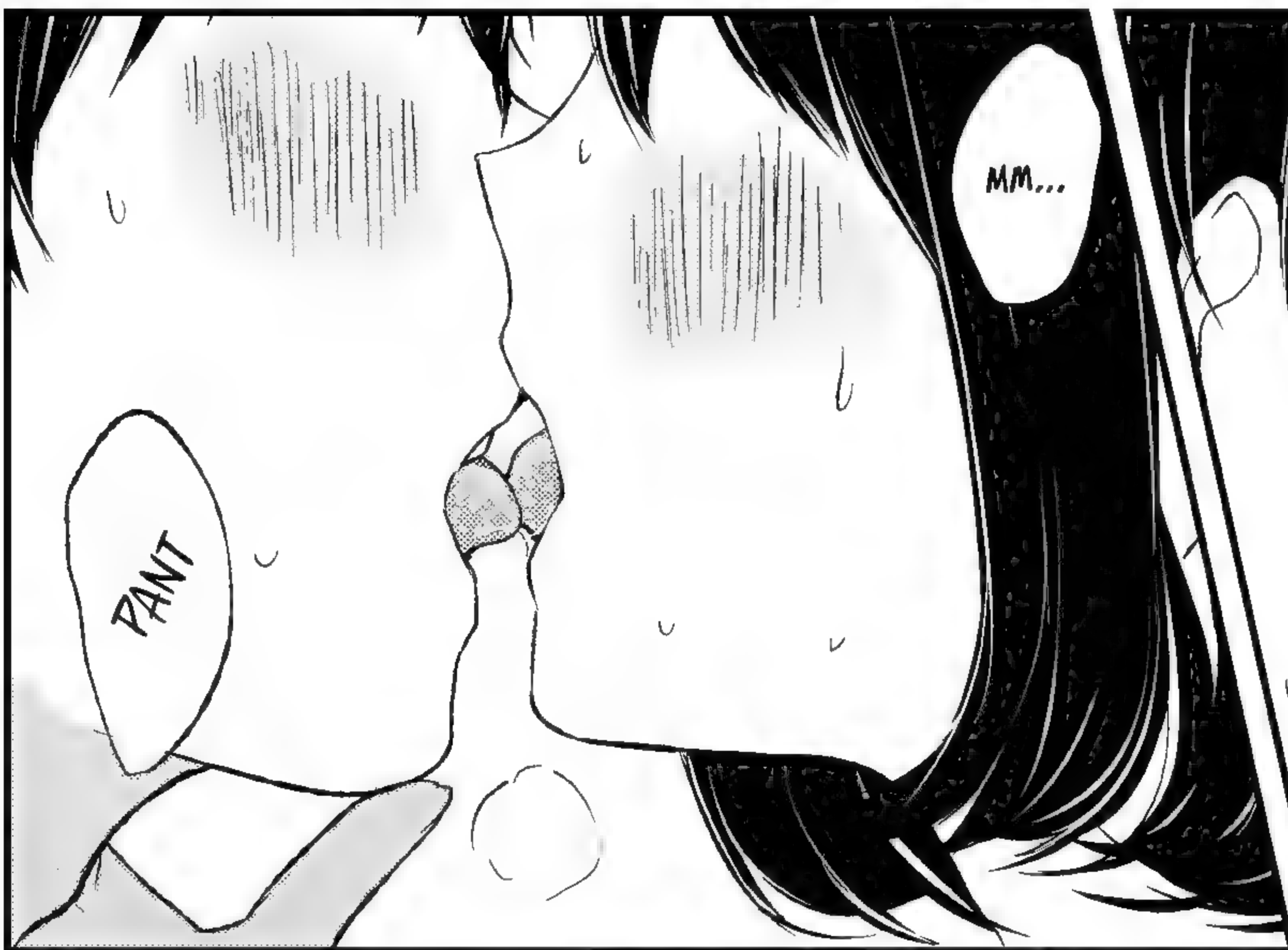




LILINA
TOLD US
TO KISS,
BUT...



...IF
THIS
IS A
BAD
IDEA?



MM...

PANT



HNN....



THIS
ISN'T
ABOUT
LOVE.



YEAH...
MAKING
UP A LIE
TO TRY
TO FIX
THINGS...

...IS
REALLY
HARD.



...I
CAN
DO IT.

I STILL
DON'T
FEEL
LIKE...





Chapter 4.5:
A Friend's Love



I already reminded you, but, but remember you have your interview today, so go pick up Lilina-chan at the station on your way home and bring her home with you, okay?

BING



Make sure you bring her

LILINA-KUN...?

THINGS ARE STILL SO AWKWARD...

AFTER MAKING EVERYTHING ALL WEIRD, SHE JUST LEFT...

LET'S GO HOME!

I'M BEAT ...

OKAY, HOME-ROOM'S OVER. YOU CAN GO!

WHAT, SERIOUSLY?

...

GAB

CHATTER

CHATTER

GAB

GUESS I'VE GOT A LITTLE TIME UNTIL HER TRAIN ARRIVES...



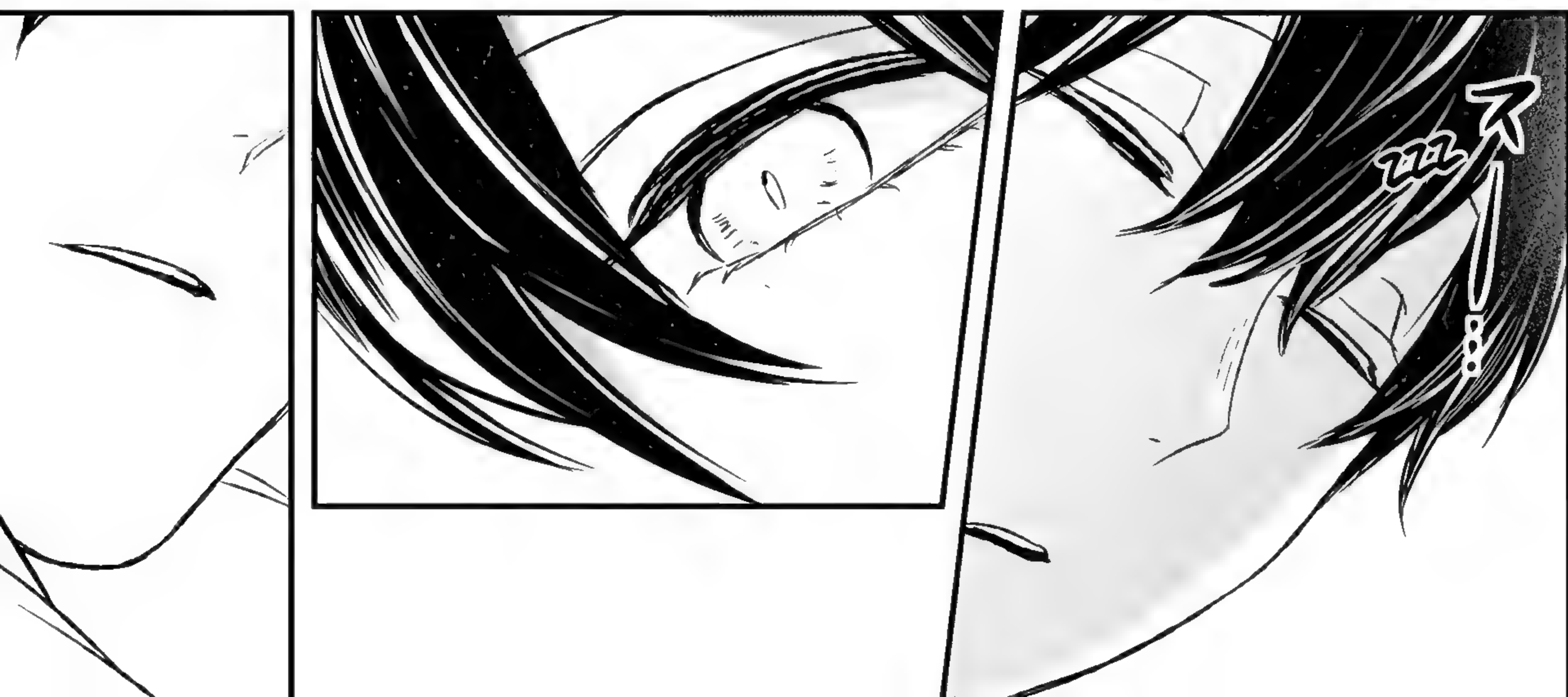








*NOTE: SEIZA REFERS TO A KNEEL-
ING POSITION OF SITTING TYPICALLY
USED IN POLITE COMPANY, ON
TRADITIONAL TATAMI MAT FLOORS.











AND
WHAT IF
I DID?

...



...



OH,
THANK
GOD.

WHEN

JUST
KIDDING.



HUH?!

I
MEAN
...!



...I
OVERLOOKED
SEVERAL
THINGS.

WHAT'S
THAT, A
FINAL
BOSS?

BEEF
STROGA-
NOFF.

SORRY!
UH, WANNA
TAKE A
GUESS AT
MY DINNER
TONIGHT?

I
WAITED
AROUND
ALL THAT
TIME FOR
THAT STUPID
QUESTION?

IS
THAT
ALL YOU
WANTED
TO ASK?

LOOKING
BACK ON
THAT
MOMENT...

I
THINK
...



LUST.



LOVE.



**AND
LIES.**

Love & Lies



The full scope of the **Yukari Law** becomes clear...but does it really lead to the **ultimate love**, or is it a **trap** laid by science?

Love & Lies

Volume 2 coming soon!

WE'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME 2!

★ SPECIAL THANKS ★

SUDOU JUU-SAMA
NONOMURA-SAMA
HANAWA-SAMA

EVERYONE IN
MY FAMILY

☆ AND ☆
ALL OF YOU
WHO'VE SO
KINDLY READ
MY WORK

MUSAWO

Love and Lies 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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